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Thai Prime Minister Addresses ASEAN Solons

BK1911105391 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister says that although some problems of instability in regional and world peace remain, the present situation seems to be much better than several decades ago. A new era of peace and cooperation among Southeast Asian countries is taking shape. With our efforts, we will be able to tear down the remnants of ideological barriers and misunderstanding and build up new ties on the basis of trust and confidence. The wealth, progress, and peace of the ASEAN countries have become a vital force for greater stability and for creating a new regional order.

Prime Minister Anan Panayachun made the above remarks when addressing the opening of the general assembly of the ASEAN Interparliamentary Organization [AIPO] at the Dusit Thani Hotel this afternoon. The prime minister called on the ASEAN countries to take the opportunity to strengthen their economies by proposing the establishment of a free trade area. He believed that this will be the first step to be initiated seriously by ASEAN before the upcoming ASEAN summit to be held around late next January. In addition, the ASEAN countries also have to expand their cooperation in and enhance interdependence on resolving problems such as narcotics, environmental deterioration, and the rapid spread of AIDS. The prime minister believes that the AIPO could show its important role in helping resolve these problems. The AIPO is a primary mechanism of cooperation among the legislative branches of the ASEAN countries and their friends all over the world. These problems require the understanding and support of the peoples concerned.

Finally, the prime minister stressed that the country is heading toward democracy and that a general election will be held soon. The government will use its remaining time to help achieve that target. He also believed with its sincerity in administering national affairs, the government will be able to respond to the people's needs admist political stability and the opening of a free trade market that will help increase national income and enhance the general well-being of the people.

Dailies on Malaysia's Criticism of U.S. Policy

BK1911133391

[Editorial report] Two Indonesian-language dailies, MERDEKA and BERITA BUANA, on 11 November carry editorials supportive of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's criticism of the U.S. stand on the Malaysian-sponsored East Asian Economic Grouping [EAEG].

In a 600-word editorial on page 4, entitled "Malaysia's Voice Is Interesting," MERDEKA is astonished at the Malaysian prime minister's attack on Washington's economic policy vis-a-vis his proposal. The daily points out that Mahathir has regarded Washington's action in urging Japan to oppose the EAEG project as "a reflection of the old colonial mentality." MERDEKA continues that Washington prefers an Asia-Pacific forum where the United States is a member, as the United States is always concerned over current trends toward regionalism in various parts of the world. However, the daily notes that "the United States itself, Canada, and Mexico are establishing a North American economic and trading bloc." The daily attributes U.S. opposition to the EAEG partly to its fear of losing Asian raw materials for its industries. The daily warns against a possible counterattack on the part of the United States and Japan which feel that the EAEG will harm their economic interests. "They are likely to conduct political maneuvers to isolate Malaysia in the region." In this regard, Malaysia should strengthen relations with Western Europe, fellow ASEAN members, the PRC, and Indochina to counter U.S. policy. Concluding, MERDEKA reminds the United States that regionalism is the current trend throughout the world. "Washington should no longer dream of developing its national development model as the only model in the world."

In a 350-word editorial on page 6, entitled "If Malaysia Criticizes the United States," BERITA BUANA notes that Mahathir's strong criticism of the United States came following reports that Secretary of State James Baker had urged Japan not to support the EAEG project. The paper quotes Mahathir as saying that "I have already clarified that this is simply a consultative forum to enhance free trade, not a trading or military bloc." Continuing, the daily considers Mahathir's anger with U.S. policy understandable because the United States is always suspicious of trading blocs. In the meantime, BERITA BUANA questions the U.S. adherence to free trade as it is taking protectionist measures against products from other countries. For example, the U.S. Congress is discussing a new draft trade bill which will be more protectionist than the Omnibus Trade Act. In conclusion, the daily agrees with Mahathir that the United States is being selfish in the international trading arena.

Japan

Miyazawa: Bush Visit To 'Cement' Partnership

OW2111044591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday that U.S. President George Bush's visit here January 7-10 will help the United States cement a global partnership with Japan following the decline of the Soviet Union.

"After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States is the world's major power and Japan is the second-largest economic power," Miyazawa told a parliamentary committee.

"We both share a large responsibility for establishing a new world order. Our two countries must share firm friendship," Miyazawa told a committee debating a bill that would allow Japanese troops to join United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Miyazawa said Bush's visit would provide an opportunity to reflect on the past 50 years following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and to confirm friendship for the next half century.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a regular news conference the two leaders plan to unveil a statement on the future of Japan-U.S. relations.

Miyazawa and Bush will also address international developments, and global leadership, Kato said.

"Economic relations will be sufficiently discussed," Kato added.

Bush administration officials in Washington confirmed that the rescheduled visit—originally planned for late November—will focus more on economic issues.

Kato said, however, that he hoped the issue of liberalizing agricultural trade, currently being discussed at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, would be resolved prior to Bush's arrival.

"We are trying for an agreement within the year," Kato said.

Japan is being pressed to open its rice market to foreign imports in order to help bring the talks to a successful conclusion.

Kato said that while Japan is prepared to accept a quota on rice imports, the tariffication proposal being pushed by the United States is unacceptable.

Tariffication would require a revision of Japan's food control law and it is unlikely that such a revision would be passed by parliament, Kato said.

Bush's visit, his first to Japan in three years, is scheduled to happen at the end of a four-nation tour that will also take him to Australia, Singapore, and South Korea.

It will also mark the first Japan-U.S. summit since Miyazawa replaced Toshiki Kaifu as prime minister earlier this month.

Miyazawa will also be making his first overseas trip as prime minister when he travels to Seoul after Bush's visit, Kato said.

Details of Miyazawa's visit to South Korea are still being worked out, he added.

Last week, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and his South Korean counterpart Yi Song-ok met in Seoul and agreed to set up Miyazawa's visit to South Korea "as early as possible." [passage omitted]

Tokyo's "basic strategy" for handling the Bush visit, focusing on the declaration, has not changed since the visit was postponed for only about a month, officials said.

They said Bush is expected to press hard on economic issues, particularly Washington's call on a reluctant Japan to restart bilateral Structural Impediments Initiative trade talks.

Officials said Japan is pleased that the U.S. Government, in announcing Bush's visit to the region, made clear that Japan the major objective.

Joint Defense Relationship With U.S. Reviewed

OW2111022791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0205 GMT 21 Nov 91

["News Focus" by Tadashi Matsumoto: "Japan, U.S. Allies in Creating New Order in Asia-Pacific"; first of a series marking the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor]

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—The 50th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor that launched it into war against the United States sees the two nations drawing closer into a partnership that many believe will help shape the world political and economic order in the years ahead.

The startling turnaround in the years since they faced each other as enemies following the historic attack of December 8, 1941 has been given added impetus by the end of the cold war and the beginning of a new era in international relations.

An indication of the closeness between Tokyo and Washington was given by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit to Tokyo earlier this month, when he stressed the need for "a full partnership" between Japan and the United States both within the Asian region and beyond it in the post-cold war era.

In what was billed as a major speech on U.S. policy toward Asia, Baker said Japan's diplomatic role has so far been "clearly too narrow," and it must now be a leader in the world community.

"This call for leadership should not just apply to the field of economics, but also in building democracy, respect for human rights, stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and in facing transnational challenges in areas such as the environment, narcotics, and refugees," Baker said.

Baker suggested the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is one of the elements ensuring friendly ties between the two countries, which he said will foster stability and economic dynamism in the region.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa also described the Japan-U.S. alliance as vital for Japan's security.

Japanese commentators have expressed concern that the Soviet Union has retained its military capability in Asia despite the cutbacks in Europe following the end of the cold war. But it is now reducing its military forces north of Japan on Sakhalin Island and the Kamchatka Peninsula, where it reportedly deploys about 60 percent of its 41 far eastern Army divisions, some 360,000 troops.

Moscow is also continuing to cut its naval and air forces in Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam and to reduce the operations of the Soviet Pacific fleet of 830 warships.

The United States, meanwhile, plans to pull out around 10 percent of its 135,000 soldiers deployed in Asia by late 1992.

Already the eruption in June of the Mt. Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines has meant the loss to the U.S. of the Clark Air Base, and it is also to quit the Subic Naval Base there. Both had been regarded as crucial strategic bases to counter the Soviet threat to Asia and the Pacific in the cold war era.

Tetsuo Maeda, a military expert, said these changes reflect the end of the 40-year cold war and a winding down in the Soviet and U.S. military capabilities.

"The Japan-U.S. Security Treaty has ended its historic mission," said Maeda, adding that the treaty was drawn up against the background of the 1950-1953 Korean War and the 1952-1954 rearmament moves of Japan at the height of cold war.

Between the late 1940s and the mid-1980s, the United States and its allies were engaged in a sharp military, political, and ideological confrontation with the Soviet Union and China, the two communist giants, in the Korean peninsula, Vietnam, Afghanistan and other areas in Asia and the Pacific.

Richard Solomon, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, has cited a number of remaining obstacles hindering the new post-cold war order in Asia and the Pacific. He listed the unresolved territorial dispute over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, the tyranny of a "brutal" military dictatorship in Myanmar [Burma], the uncertain future of the divided Korean peninsula, and political uncertainty regarding China and the Soviet Union.

Solomon said, "in our view, sustained American engagement in the Pacific is fundamental to U.S. national interests and to the international system we hope to see become a reality."

Shigeru Hatakeyama, chief of the defense policy bureau of the Defense Agency, agreed with Solomon, saying a U.S. forward military presence is needed in Asia and the Pacific as well as other parts of the world to maintain peace and stability.

"Japan has no intention of playing a security role in Asia and the Pacific comparable with that performed by the United States, but we are ready to shoulder a greater burden of defense spending on the U.S. military forces stationed in Japan," Hatakeyama said.

Maeda said it would be wrong for the United States to try to defend its interests in Asia and the Pacific regions by military means. He said the two economic powers should build closer economic rather than military ties to encourage the prosperity of Asia and the Pacific in the 21st century.

Cabinet Secretary on Possible U.S.-EC Accord

OW2111053091 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato held a news conference this morning. In connection with reports that the United States and the EC are close to agreeing on removing all import barriers on farm produce through tariffication, the chief cabinet secretary said that Japan would not comply with any demands for opening its rice market which might lead to changing Japan's food management system.

Commenting on reports that the United States and the EC are close to agreeing at the Uruguay Round of the GATT to replace import barriers on farm produce, including rice, with tariffication, and to raising their tariff rates by more than 30 percent over the next five years and imposing initially a zero or very low tariff rate on imported farm produce equivalent to 3 percent of domestic production, the Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato said:

[Begin Kato recording] For now, the Japanese Government has no information that the United States and the EC have agreed to settle the farm trade issue through the unacceptable introduction of tariffication. I think difficult problems still remain to be resolved between the United States and the EC on removing import barriers on farm produce through tariffication. [end recording]

At the news conference, the chief cabinet secretary went on to say:

[Begin Kato recording] It is difficult for the Japanese Government to accept any demands for opening the Japanese rice market, as it is a stable food in Japan. If Japan's rice market is open through tariffication, it would be necessary to change Japan's present food management system. Currently, it is difficult for the government to get the necessary legislation to that end passed in the Diet. [end recording]

At the news conference, the chief cabinet secretary also indicated that, under the present political situation, where the opposition holds the majority in the Upper House, even if the government agreed during diplomatic negotiations to comply with any demands for opening Japan's rice market, the Diet would not approve any amendment to the relevant laws.

Asked by a reporter at the news conference if the government intended to permit foreign rice exporters' minimum access to Japan's rice market, the chief cabinet secretary declined to answer, only saying that he was not in a position to comment, because the negotiations were still in the final stage.

Takeshita Calls for Compromise on Rice Issue

OW2011141091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 20 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita called Wednesday for the government to openly discuss and possibly compromise on opening Japan's rice market in the final stage of global trade talks.

If the United States and European countries compromise on farm issues at the Uruguay Round of talks, Japan should also compromise on lifting its virtual ban on rice imports, the founder of the biggest power bloc in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] said.

"If European nations and the United States work up a streaming sweat, our nation also has to sweat" over the rice issue, Takeshita said in a lecture at a Tokyo Hotel.

He did not elaborate.

Takeshita said it is important for each nation in the talks to freely discuss all barriers to free farm trade, including subsidies, Japan's rice import ban, and the waivers some countries use to protect their products.

The U.S. is pressing Japan to replace its rice ban with tariffs that could be gradually reduced.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, warning of a further escalation of tension between Japan and the U.S. over trade, said Monday the time has come to solve the issue of Japan's rice import ban.

Kanemaru, president of Takeshita's LDP faction, asked, "Is it possible to solve the (rice) issue by simply refusing to import rice even though we sell millions of cars (to the U.S.) under the free trade structure?

"Even if we purchase rice from overseas, the total amount of imports will still only be as much as 300,000 tons," the LDP power broker said.

Kanemaru said in May it is unavoidable for Japan to partially open its rice market, and he proposed that the government use measures to provide relief to farmers if the market is opened.

German Economics Minister Meets Officials

Seeks Concessions on Rice

OW2111060991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0543 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Visiting German Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann indicated Thursday that Japan should make concessions on rice to bring the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion, Finance Ministry officials said.

In a meeting with Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, Moellemann hinted at a need for Japan to open up its rice market, saying Japan and Germany should take the initiative at the stalled Uruguay Round talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

However, Hata told Moellemann that it is difficult for Japan to concede on the rice issue because of political factors involved, although the country is ready to make as many concessions as possible.

Hata also expressed hope that the two nations will continue talks on the matter.

States Support for Territories Claim

OW2111130391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Germany may soon tell the Russian Federation it supports Japan's position on a territorial dispute with the Soviet Union, visiting German Minister of Economics Juergen Moellemann indicated Thursday.

Moellemann told Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe he asked German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Gensheur earlier in the day by telephone to express support for Japan's territorial claims in his upcoming meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Japanese officials said.

Yeltsin is currently on an official visit to Germany.

The Foreign Ministry officials said it would be the first time Germany has explicitly stated its support for the Japanese position on the matter in official talks with either the Soviet Union or the Russian Federation.

They said Moellemann told Watanabe he is aware of Japan's hopes for a rapid resolution of the territorial issue and that Germany "supports" the Japanese position.

Moellemann also said he understands while Japan may better be able to extend large-scale financial assistance to

Moscow after a territorial settlement, that does not mean it has no intention of extending any aid pending such a settlement.

Watanabe said Japan is pleased with the Soviet-Russian position that the territorial dispute should be resolved on the basis of "law and justice."

He said if there were assurances from Moscow the four islands off Hokkaido, seized by the Soviet army at the end of World War II, would be returned to Japan, it would make it easier to consider large scale cooperation.

Watanabe said Japan is willing to extend aid to Moscow from a humanitarian viewpoint but all-out assistance has to await "their clear intention to return (the islands)."

Foreign Minister on 'Understanding' for UN Bill

OW2111133291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1317 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Thursday Japan's neighbors are likely to show understanding to its proposed participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations [PKO].

Watanabe said involvement of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in U.N. operations will be understood "just as it was when sending minesweepers to the Persian Gulf waters," other countries will "say that it did a good job once it is dispatched."

He was responding to Komeito's Shozo Azuma at a session of the House of Representatives' Special Committee on International Peace Cooperation.

Statments so far by South Korea and China have expressed negative views on the sending of Japanese troops abroad because of Japan's militaristic past.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Japan will improve its eligibility as a possible permanent member of the U.N. Security Council if the peacekeeping operations bill is passed.

In a related move, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party decided Thursday to open a lower house plenary session next Wednesday with the aim of having the bill passed.

Current DPRK Normalization Talks Conclude

Agree To Meet in Jan

OW2011140791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1328 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Beijing, Nov. 20 KYODO—Japan and North Korea ended the fifth round diplomatic normalization talks Wednesday with an agreement to meet again in late January, possibly in Beijing, Japanese officials said.

On the third day of talks, Chon In-chol, head of the North Korean delegation, handed chief Japanese negotiator Noboru Nakahira written answers to Japanese inquiries about 12 Japanese women married to repatriated North Koreans.

Pyongyang responded that of the 12 women, six are healthy, five have died of illness or old age, and the whereabouts of one is unknown. An estimated 6,000 Japanese women went to North Korea with their husbands between 1959 and 1962 and have not been allowed even brief returns to Japan.

Chon, however, rejected a Japanese call to allow Japanese wives in North Korea to visit their families in Japan, insisting bilateral diplomatic relations should be set up first to deal with the issue.

Nakahira, asking for information on 20 other Japanese wives, urged North Korea to address the return issue separately and to allow Japanese wives to their hometowns as soon as possible.

On inter-Korean dialogue aimed at easing tensions, Nakahira was quoted as saying that Japan hopes that the fifth round of North- South prime ministerial talks, scheduled for December, will make further progress.

Chon replied that, although the talks are basically a problem between the two Koreas, it is natural for Japan, as a neighboring country, to have an interest in the negotiations.

Chon also added that, if the upcoming inter-Korean talks are fruitful, a summit meeting between South Korean President No Tae-u and North Korean leader Kim Il-song would likely be on the agenda, according to the Japanese officials.

The three-day talks, held alternately at the two countries' embassies in Beijing, made progress, although the two sides remain divided in their views, Chon told a press conference. Nakahira also told reporters the negotiations made headway on the whole.

On the implementation of revised immigration laws to stabilize the legal status of Korean residents in Japan, Chon said the Japanese Government had taken progressive and positive measures.

During the talks, originally slated to end Tuesday but extended by one day, Japan reiterated its demand that North Korea immediately and unconditionally open its nuclear facilities to international inspections.

The Japanese side also expressed "grave concern" over a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant allegedly under construction in Yongbyon, some 90 kilometers north of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

Meanwhile, North Korea urged Japan to compensate Pyongyang for suffering and losses it inflicted on the Korean people as "aggressor" during its 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean peninsula.

The North Korean delegation, however, did not use the word "reparations" in demanding the compensation, which it used in past talks, saying Japan had a responsibility to pay reparations because the two countries were at war.

Discuss 'Good Neighbor' Treaty

OW2011144991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1420 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 20 KYODO—North Korea has proposed concluding a peace and good neighbor treaty with Japan during the fifth round of diplomatic normalization talks, sources close to the negotiations said Wednesday.

According to the sources, the North Korean delegation, led by Chon In-chol, made the proposal on Monday, the first day of the three-day negotiations in Beijing which ended Wednesday.

During discussions on "basic problems," including the debate over the North's jurisdiction on the Korean peninsula, the North Korean side said that North Korea is still technically at war with Japan and that the two countries do not have a peace treaty.

North Korea and Japan, however, exchanged views on the proposal because the Japanese negotiating team, headed by Noboru Nakahira, replied that Tokyo cannot accept it under current conditions, the sources said.

North Korea also demanded that a Japanese apology for its past colonial rule of the Korean peninsula be included in the proposed treaty, the sources added.

Defense Agency Official Explains Policy Thrust

SK2011150791 Seoul CHOSON II BO in Korean 17 Nov 91 p 4

[Interview with Akira Hiyoshi, Japanese Defense Agency vice director, by Tokyo-based correspondent Song Hui-yong; date and place not given.]

[Text] [Song Hui-yong] The ROK Defense Ministry has stated that Japan's defense strategy "has changed aggressively." What do you think is the background of this statement?

[Akira Hiyoshi] I do not entirely comprehend why this was said. But I regret very much that the ROK does not have a correct understanding. The basic guideline of Japan's defense policy is to concentrate solely on defense, and this is in conformity with the Constitution, which bases our national defense on a defensive orientation.

[Song] What do you think of the view that Japan has become externally "aggressive," judging from its its military power in conjunction with its political, diplomatic, economic, and cultural power?

[Hiyoshi] A Japanese proverb says that to know is the beginning of understanding. I think that it is important to let foreign countries know and understand Japanese culture and life. As security is not always guaranteed by defensive power, I have recognized the importance of diplomatic efforts and cultural activities in addition to defense itself.

[Song] In light of a series of recent Japanese actions, including dispatching a minesweeper to the Persian Gulf and joining the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member, isn't it true that Japan is going to "actively take the offensive," even though you may be uncomfortable hearing expressions like "aggressive?"

[Hiyoshi] It is just as you say. I would like to ask you to understand that Japan has begun to take an active role, not an aggressive one. Japan became a great economic power through receiving one-sided favors after World War II. Up to now, Japan had always believed that economic contributions to the world were enough. However, during the course of the Gulf war, Japan came to clearly realize that international contributions mean more than simply economic cooperation. Japan was strongly awakened to the need to perspire as well as to give personnel and materiel. As a part of the effort arising from this realization, Japan took a risk in dispatching its Self-Defense troops abroad. Please understand this action as providing human power and not military power to the UN troops.

[Song] I have heard voices express worry about the high possibility that Japan may suddenly dispatch troops independently some day, though now it is done under the auspices of the United Nations or multinational forces...

[Hiyoshi] I can affirm that people do not have to worry about that. Our Constitution does not permit such a thing, and neither would the Diet. The bill on peacekeeping operations (PKO), which is under discussion now, also limits activities to nonmilitary and humanitarian contributions upon request from a relevant nation and on the basis of a UN decision.

[Song] Do you mean that Japan will be passive all the way?

[Hiyoshi] I can surely promise that Japan will dispatch troops only under the major premises of a UN decision and upon a relevant nation's request and agreement.

[Song] Estimating the Japanese military strength usually means counting not only manpower and armaments but also military technology, including private enterprises' public technology—especially semiconductors and electronics—which may easily be converted to military technology whenever needed. What do you think of this?

[Hiyoshi] Nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, and biological weapons cause problems. But, I can assure you that Japan has no intention of either possessing or developing such weapons. Even though Japan has highly advanced technologies like computer science, efforts in these areas will go toward developing parts that cannot be used for fatal weapons. You don't have to worry about that.

[Song] Do you have any plans to reduce defense expenses as well as personnel and armaments in line with the diminished state of alertness of neighboring countries, including the ROK?

[Hiyoshi] The ongoing worldwide arms reduction is to reduce offensive military forces. As Japan has the minimum size of military forces, I do not think that we have to reduce arms, though it is being done in the world. However, the contracted amount to improve armaments is decreasing by 2.3 percent every year. The increase in total defense expenses are due to personnel expenses.

Report on East Timorese Shooting 'Inconclusive'

OW2111070291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—A report from Japanese Embassy staff in Jakarta who investigated a shooting incident in the East Timorese capital of Dili on November 12 was inconclusive, a Foreign Ministry source said Thursday.

The fact finding mission investigated the circumstances surrounding the shooting of demonstrators by the Indonesian military at Dili's Santa Cruz cemetery.

The Indonesian Government said 19 East Timorese died in the incident, but other accounts, including those of eyewitnesses, put the death toll at more than 100.

The ministry source said the fact finding mission, which was in Dili from November 14 to 16, was told by local officials that the incident happened when a large group of East Timorese were at the cemetery for a wreath laying ceremony when they "encountered" the army.

The source said there is room for debate on who instigated the shooting incident.

The source also said the report was not enough for Japan to change its present position that it is still awaiting an official reply from the Indonesian Government on the incident.

The Japanese Government hopes an Indonesian fact finding commission announced by Indonesian State Secretary Moerdiono on Saturday will make a "thorough investigation" of the case and forward a "trustworthy report" to the Japanese Government, the source said.

Satsuki Eda, head of the United Social Democratic Party and the secretary general of the Diet members forum on East Timor, said the Japanese Embassy mission to Dili may have been duped.

"They came back and reported that the town was 'peaceful,'" Eda said. "I wonder whether it was peaceful or whether may be they were duped. I intend to find out."

Eda said he has received conflicting accounts of the incident.

"The army said there were knives and other weapons among the demonstrators," Eda said at a press meeting. "The army said the soldiers were told not to shoot but if that [word indistinct], why did they shoot?

"What sort of soldiers are they if they then shot?"

Fisheries Agency Plans Cuts in Trawlnet Fishing

OW2111134091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Japan will cut more than 80 percent of its trawling vessels in the Bering Sea within three years, the Fisheries Agency announced Thursday.

The agency will offer 250-410 million yen subsidies per vessel to those who will lose their jobs. Currently, 81 trawlnet vessels are operating, agency officials said. The agency estimated the bailout will cost about 20 billion yen in the three years.

The 1990 catch in the Bering Sea was around 890,000 tons, with Japan's share at 420,000 tons. Japan's fishing haul, however, declined to about 120,000 tons, out of 260,000 tons in the total catches in the water in the three quarters of this year, due to a decrease in fish numbers.

A meeting that ended Wednesday in Washington on Bering Sea fishing saw the Soviet Union and the United States, who called for total suspension, in dispute with Japan, China, South Korea, and Poland, who urged only restrictions, according to the agency officials.

SDP Chairman Addresses Trade Union Convention

OW2111060491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0550 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 21 KYODO—Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe said Thursday that Japan's war-renouncing Constitution is a starting point for how Japan should contribute to an international society in the post cold war era.

The leader of Japan's largest opposition party leader made the remark in reference to the possible overseas dispatch of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to assist U.N. forces.

In an address to a regular convention of Japan's largest trade union confederation, Rengo, Tanabe said, "Japan should make an international contribution from the nonmilitary and civilian point of view."

The current extraordinary Diet session is deliberating a bill that would allow SDF personnel to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Regarding a proposed reorganization of the Japanese political system, Tanabe said the party will make every effort to create a system of two large parties, and will do so by forging social democratic forces into one party to debate with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

In an opening speech to the convention, Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) Chairman Akira Yamagishi backed Tanabe's opinion about party reorganization.

Yamagishi said the 8-million-strong Rengo supports a system of two large parties in Japan, which is similar to a European model where social democratic and conservative parties regularly alternate government control.

The trade union leader pledged that the Rengo will firmly commit itself to an international trade union movement, complementing the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Yamagishi said Rengo will make efforts to build friendly relations with Chinese and Soviet trade unionists.

By building relations with Soviet trade unions, he said, "the Japanese trade union confederation is determined to open the way for the return of four Soviet-held islands to Japan."

Japan has claimed as its territory four islands located off eastern Hokkaido—including Etorofu, Kunashiri, the Habomais, and Shikotan—which have been held by the Soviet Union since the closing days of World War II.

The opening of the two-day Rengo regular convention was attended by about 2,000 union representatives and guests.

Among the guests were Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo, SDP Leader Tanabe, Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Keigo Ouchi, United Social Democratic Party representative Satsuki Eda and foreign union representatives from 34 countries.

North Korea

Cheney Said To 'Incite a War Fever' in South

SK2111101391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney who is participating in the U.S.-South Korea "annual security consultative meeting" called at the 17th Armored Regiment of the Second Division of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces Wednesday afternoon and incited war fever of the U.S. forces while watching the "firepower demonstration exercise" of the M3A2 Bradley tank, newly introduced into South Korea recently, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The fact that the U.S. defence secretary called at the aggressive U.S. unit to instigate the powder-reeking war exercise in the van as soon as the U.S.-South Korea "annual security consultative meeting" opened proves that the "consultative meeting" is a confab to hasten war preparations against the North.

Our people are sharply watching with heightened vigilance the criminal acts of the military boss of the U.S. imperialists who flew into South Korea to formally sign the aggressive "Wartime Host Nation Support Agreement" with the puppets and incite a war fever.

Official Renews Call for U.S. Nuclear Pullout

OW2111113891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Beijing, Nov. 21 KYODO—A senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official said Thursday complete withdrawal of U.S. nuclear warheads in South Korea is necessary for Pyongyang to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Chon In-chol, who headed the North Korean delegation in the Tokyo-Pyongyang talks which ended Wednesday, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that the condition of allowing International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection will be the total removal of a nuclear threat to North Korea.

South Korean news agency YONHAP reported Thursday that President No Tae-u is likely to declare his country free of nuclear weapons during a visit by U.S. President George Bush in January.

The report quoted an unidentified government source as saying Washington and Seoul have agreed to the withdrawal of all U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea by the end of 1991.

Chon said if that happens, it will be an important step toward accepting international inspection.

Chon, however, denied views that bilateral negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang are progressing below the surface, saying the U.S. is not showing "positive reaction." [passage omitted]

U.S. Military Exercises Reported

SK2111050591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Fleet Command on November 17 and 18 sent scores of cruisers, destroyers, escort ships and submarines with the carrier Independence in the lead to the sea off South Korea from the Yokosuka Base in Japan to stage a joint air strike exercise in the air above Asan Bay and Anmyon Islet with intensive sorties of pursuit planes, pursuit- assault planes and assault planes from the carrier, according to military sources.

The exercise was aimed at testing the readiness of action of carrier-borne planes for an "event of contingency" and the capacity of joint strike at strategic targets in the coastal area and inland of the northern half of Korea.

On the 18th and 19th, the Pacific Fleet Command staged a joint air and ground strike exercise for a forestalling attack at the North with the mobilization of formations of nuclear-capable F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers and fighter-bombers, assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes belonging to the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the South Korean puppet air force.

On the 17th, puppet army soldiers fired some 650 bullets of 12.7 mm large-calibre machineguns and M-16 rifle in the Demilitarized Zone of the Military Demarcation Line, getting on our nerve.

The military planes which were mobilized in the exercises staged against the North on the 17th and 18th in the air above South Korea totalled more than 1,200.

Delegation Head Reports on Talks With Japan

SK2011155491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Beijing, November 20 (KCNA)—The fifth intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan closed in Beijing today.

Chon In-chol, head of the Korean Government delegation, gave a news briefing at the end of the talks.

According to him, the Japanese side at today's session first led our side to explain our side's views of the North-South dialogue. Our side explained its stand toward the question.

Our side said that the main point at the North-South dialogue is that the South side is trying to fix the present division, while our side is consistently calling for the reunification of the country, and that the South side is persisting in North-South confrontation while our side is calling for the promotion of national reconciliation and great national unity for reunification.

Stating that we insist on achieving the reunification of the country by means of confederation based on one nation and one state, two systems and two governments, our side stressed: This proposal of confederation is a fair and realistic reunification formula acceptable to all.

Our side said that the important matter at present in achieving the country's reunification is the adoption of a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South. On the prospect of the North-South top-level talks, our side declared that top-level talks will be put on the order of the day, if a progress is made at the ongoing high-level talks.

A discussion on the fourth item on the agenda took place at the session.

As regards the question of Japanese spouses in Korea, our side said that the question of the home visit of Japanese wives has not been resolved because the diplomatic ties have not been normalised and even the travel of people is blocked between the two countries owing to the hostile policy of Japan to the DPRK, and because the Japanese side, after raising this question at the DPRK-Japan talks, laid an artificial obstacle to the talks by bringing forward a problem of an unidentified Japanese woman rather than this matter and because the Japanese side refused to accept our side's proposal to establish diplomatic ties first between the DPRK and Japan as a normal process of an easy solution of this matter.

We said we will consider the possible normalization of the home visit of the people who are in urgent circumstances by examining their cases one by one from the humanitarian point of view even before the normalization of diplomatic relations, if the talks progress smoothly. But our side added that the Japanese side has so far failed to justify itself in requesting this. As regards this, our side said, the Japanese side should seriously reflect on its act before laying the blame at our door.

Considering that the question of home visit of Japanese wives is a matter of deep concern for the Japanese people today, our side at the session informed the Japanese side of the result of the inquiry into the safety of 12 women out of the 20 Japanese wives the list of whose names was brought up by the Japanese side with a request to inquire into their safety, hoping for the realisation of their home visit, at the second Tokyo talks.

Our side stressed that the two sides should make efforts in the future to solve the question of home visit of the Japanese wives and the Japanese side in particular should refrain from doing things which are not helpful to the solution of this question.

In the debate on the legal status of the Koreans in Japan, our side took note of the fact that the Japanese side informed our side that the "special immigration control laws" passed at the Diet and made it clear again that the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) would not be suppressed. Our side appreciated it as an affirmative measure.

Citing examples exposing the unjustifiable treatment of Chongnyon, our side demanded that if such acts are committed independent of the will of the Japanese Government, appropriate steps should be taken to stop them at once.

The Japanese side said that, back home, it would tell this to the competent authorities.

The sides agreed to have the sixth intergovernmental full-dress talks in late January, 1992.

Israel's Settlement Program Criticized

SK2111050191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—Israel should immediately stop building "settlements" and quit all its occupied Arab lands, says MINJU CHOSON in a signed commentary today.

Recalling that the Knesset adopted a "resolution" urging the government to "step up the building of settlements in Golan Heights" and the prime minister prattled that "Israel would never give up its occupied areas", the news analyst points out:

Israel's ambition for territorial expansion is a wanton violation of the sovereignty of Arab countries and a challenge to the desire and aspiration of the world progressive people and those of the region who are calling for peace and security in the Middle East.

The Arab countries are issuing statements denouncing Israel's invariable designs of aggression and decisively rejecting their manoeuvrings.

The Korean people are condemning the Israeli aggressors' brigandish ambition for territorial expansion and extending firm support and solidarity to the just struggle of the Arab nations.

If Israel, the chief obstacle to Mideast peace, does not renounce its expansionist policy, peace and security in Middle East cannot be expected.

South Students Protest Joint Security Meeting

SK2111050791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—The South Korean National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) held a press conference at Tongguk University on November 20 and demanded that the United States and the South Korean puppet authorities stop the U.S.-South Korean "annual security consultative meeting" which opened in Seoul and give up the aggressive and treacherous scheme to sign the "wartime host nation support agreement", according to a radio report from Seoul.

Chondaehyop also demanded the pullout of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

It warned that it would set the period from November 20 to 26 as a period of struggle against the "wartime host nation support agreement" and launch large-scale anti-U.S., anti-"government" demonstrations across South Korea if its demand is not met.

On the same day, more than 2,000 students of 10 odd universities in South Korea held a rally and demonstration against the conclusion of the "agreement".

Four delegates including Kye Hun-che, chairman of the joint measure committee for realizing denuclearization and disarmament and checking the signing of the "wartime host nation support agreement", called at the puppet ministry of defence and the U.S. embassy that day and reiterated their opposition to the conclusion of the "agreement" after hearing an explanation about the questionnaire against the signing of the "agreement" which they had handed on the 19th.

South Using 'Smear Campaign' on Nuclear Weapons

SK2111054391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 21 Nov 91

["Epileptic Fit of Nuclear War Servant"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the foolish smear campaign of the South Korean authorities against the DPRK over the question of "nuclear inspection."

A meeting with foreigners these days, No Tae-u said "North's nuclear development" poses a "threat" and asked them to "exert diplomatic efforts to check the nuclear development," and the "foreign minister," "defense minister" and others threatened to "force nuclear inspection" if the North refuse to accept it.

Noting that the South Korean authorities are ascribing the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula to the North, the daily brands this as a shameless false propaganda reminding one of a thief crying "Stop thief!."

The news analyst says:

Our country does not have a single nuclear weapon and has neither intention nor capacity to develop nuclear weapons.

By contrast, in South Korea there are more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons of various types and nuplear bases here and there.

If the No Tae-u group has a shred of national conscience, it must apologize for the introduction of the U.S. nuclear weapons which threaten the existence of the nation and must put on the order of the day the question of withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons and dismantlement of nuclear bases in South Korea before it is too late. However, No Tae-u in his recent "declaration of denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula mentioned not a word about the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons.

It is a despicable, brazen act to raise a hue and cry over fictitious "nuclear development" by somebody while giving no thought to the question of removing the nuclear arsenal of aggressor troops which may blow up any moment.

It is clear why No has fallen into hysterics over the question of "nuclear inspection." He seeks in this to keep the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and find a pretext for nuclear development by his group. It was also motivated by his wicked intention to ignite a nuclear war against the North on the pretext of its refusal to accept "nuclear inspection."

His group is trying to divert elsewhere the attention of students and people from them and defuse its crisis with a false propaganda about "North's nuclear development."

If nuclear inspection is to be made, it should not be made of us alone who have no nuclear arms, but be made simultaneously of South Korea which has nuclear weapons and bases.

KCNA Reviews 21 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK2111053491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang November 21 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the bereft family of the late Mr. Choe Tok-sin who was chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, chairman of the Central Guidance Committee of the Korean Chondoist Association and vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

President Kim Il-song received the Togolese ambassador to Korea who paid a farewell call on him, according to the press.

President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received reply messages from His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and from Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, says the press.

An article of NODONG SINMUN recalls that President Kim Il-song led the overall Korean revolution to victory with the Pujonryong secret base in South Hamgyong Province as a regional base of leadership from the latter half of the 1930s to the first half of the 1940s, the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were studied and disseminated abroad, says the paper.

"Superiority of Socialist Economic Management by Political Method" and "Proper Use of Economic Lever Is Intrinsic Demand of Socialist Economy" are the respective titles of NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON articles.

Econews of the press includes reports that the construction of Tongil Street in Pyongyang is being dynamically accelerated at the final stage and a meeting for year-end account settlement and income distribution was held on the Chilgol cooperative farm in Mangyongdae district, Pyongyang.

Papers report that the fifth intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations closed and the third contact between delegates for the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks took place.

The President of Namibia visited a Korean art and handiwork exposition in Windhoek, says the press.

Conveyed in the press is an account of the sojourn in Indonesia of the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

The press informs the readers that the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK answered questions put by a KCNA reporter on the recent intensified schemings of the United States and some other countries to put international pressure upon the DPRK over the question of nuclear inspection.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary says the utterances of the No Tae-u ruling group that the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is attributable to the North are a shameless false propaganda reminding one of a thief crying "stop thief".

The South Korean puppets committed such a grave military provocation as illegally bringing an amoured car and helicopter into the Demilitarized Zone, says the paper.

Spotlighted in the press is news that a struggle against the signing of the aggressive and treacherous "wartime host nation support agreement" and for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons is sweeping all social strata of South Korea.

Students of Seoul National University and peasants in different parts of South Korea protested against the U.S. pressure for rice market opening and Kim Chong-sik, chairman of Chondaehyop, refused a trial in protest against the suppression of the participants in the court struggle, says the press.

The chief of the Hanminjon mission in Havana denounced the violation of human rights by the No Tae-u fascist ruling group and foreign newspapers reported about the DPRK's rejection of No Tae-u's "denuclearisation declaration", according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Sweden-Korea Friendship Association published the magazine "Information of Korea" No. 3.

The representatives of the fact-finding group on the forcible drafting of Koreans demanded the publication of the lists of names of Koreans forcibly taken to Japan and a probe into the truth behind it and NHK reported that during the Second World War the names of the Koreans who were forcibly taken to Japan were made public and the families of Koreans who were killed while serving in the Japanese Army are demanding an apology and compensation on the part of the Japanese Government, says the press.

International news of NODONG SINMUN includes reports that Comrade Fidel Castro declared that troops of the United States and the Soviet Union should be simultaneously withdrawn from Cuba, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam called for strengthening the party ranks, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk called for efforts to build a prosperous country and the 7th ministerial meeting of G-77 opened.

MINJU CHOSON in a commentary says that the Israeli aggressors' ambition for territorial expansion in the Middle East is getting all the more wanton.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN is news of the building of a new life in Egypt, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana and Tanzania.

"The United States is largest arms exporter in the world" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

South Korea

Defense Minister Meets U.S. Secretary Cheney

Discuss Nuclear Issues

SK2111032191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku and U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney discussed Thursday concrete ways to deter North Korea from acquiring nuclear weapons and the second and third phases of the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops from Korea, the Defense Ministry said.

Yi and Cheney made a joint assessment of the rapidly changing international situation and the security environment of East Asia and the Pacific region during the 90-minute meeting, held prior to a plenary session of the Security Consultative Meeting (SCM).

Yi said North Korean nuclear development posed a grave threat to the security of the Korean peninsula and the Asia-Pacific region, and measures to deter North Korea were urgently needed, a ministry spokesman said.

But Yi expressed opposition to any measures that would lead to war on the Korean peninsula, the spokesman said.

Cheney and Yi assessed the influence on the Korean security situation of the nuclear initiative of U.S. President George Bush and Korean President No Tae-u's five-point declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and discussed follow-up measures.

They also discussed long-term security cooperation between the two countries.

They will co-chair the SCM and release a joint communique Thursday afternoon.

Students Declare 'Anti-American Week'

SK2111020091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Students yelling anti-American slogans and tossing firebombs protested Wednesday against a visit to Seoul by U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Dissidents have declared this week "Anti-American Week" to mark Cheney's visit.

Witnesses said about 150 students staged an anti-U.S. rally at Seoul's Tongguk University and marched toward the nearby Hotel Shilla where Cheney and his delegation to U.S.-South Korea military strategy talks have been staying. Cheney was not at the hotel during the protest.

About 10 students were arrested by police who blocked the march outside the hotel, witnesses said. Another group of 60 to 70 students were detained after trying to join the march.

No Tae-u Sees No 'Drastic' U.S. Troop Cutbacks

SK2111122891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1202 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—There will be no drastic U.S. troop reduction in South Korea for the next few years and U.S. role will be thoroughly readjusted for complete takeover of command by the South Korean side by the year 2000, President No Tae-u said Thursday.

Despite opinions that forcible measures may be necessary against North Korea to deter its nuclear development program, No said he firmly believes the problem should be solved diplomatically.

The Korean division will not continue unto the next century, No said, predicting that the critical opportunity "may come much faster that people believe."

In an interview with SEOUL SINMUN on the daily's 46th anniversary, the president said the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea may be adjusted in step with changing political circumstances in the region.

"But there will not be drastic reduction for the next few years," he said.

"The overall direction is that South Korea will completely take over the command by the year 2000," he said.

When asked whether the U.S. troops will stay even after Korea is reunified, the president said, "South Korea and the United States should continue their bilateral security cooperation for peace on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia."

Giving optimistic projections about national reunification, No stressed that South Korea does not seek to absorb North Korea in the reunification process.

On North Korea's nuclear development, No noted recently-emerging opinions that the international community should consider taking forcible measures.

"But we firmly believe that this problem must be solved diplomatically," he said.

Commenting on market opening pressures from the Uruguay Round, the president said his government has always and will continue to open the domestic market after full consideration of the country's capability to handle liberalization.

"It is important, however, that the domestic industries and the people take voluntary steps to readily adapt to new situations," he said.

Apparently referring to the Hyundai group's tax evasion scandal, No said the society will no longer allow or cover up conglomerates' illegal activities.

"Whether be it small or big company, any firm involved in misappropriation or tax evasion will be dealt by law," he said.

On the next presidential candidate, No said he banned any discussion on the issue within his party to prevent further confusion when the nation faces compounded problems in economy and other public issues.

"The Democratic Liberal Party will adhere to the party constitution and choose the candidate through democratic procedures," he said.

On possibility of a cabinet reshuffle before the general election next year, the president said "reshuffle is possible any time when felt necessary."

No Tae-u To Verify Nuclear Pullout by Jan

SK2111033291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u is likely to declare that South Korea is free of nuclear arms when U.S. President George Bush visits Seoul Jan. 5-7, a government source said Thursday.

Nuclear weapons deployed in Korea by the U.S. forces would be pulled out within the year before "international diplomatic efforts go into full swing to force North Korea to stop nuclear arms development," the source said, asking not to be identified by name or title.

No may make the declaration in a joint news conference to wind up Bush's two-day visit.

The two allies have a policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear warheads in South Korea, but it is generally believed that the United States has nuclear arms in Korea.

Bush's planned visit to Seoul was the last in a series of steps designed to get North Korea to stop developing nuclear arms before launching all-out international efforts in the diplomatic front, the source said.

If North Korea refuses to scrap its nuclear reprocessing facilities even after No officially states that there are no nuclear weapons in the South, forcible means may be used by the U.N. Security Council and other international organizations, he said.

The governors' meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in February will serve as a forum for deciding how to apply sanctions to North Korea, the source said.

Foreign minister Yi Sang-ok said Wednesday that Seoul could announce the absence of nuclear arms "in the not distant future" if Bush's Sept. 27 promise of nuclear reduction was carried out as planned.

In his Nov. 8 declaration of "non-nuclear Korean peninsula peace initiatives," No said South Korea "will not manufacture, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons" or nuclear fuel reprocessing and enrichment facilities.

North Korea is believed to be nearly or already capable of producing an atomic bomb. The hard-line communist government joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] in 1985 but has not yet signed a nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] as an NPT signatory is required to do within 18 months of joining.

U.S. Urged To Push Japan Arms Reduction

SK2111015491 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 19 Nov 91 p 5

[Article by Tokyo bureau chief in the "World's Eye" column: "Dangerous Tug-of-War Between the U.S. and Japan"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] What the United States has tended to neglect in establishing a new regional security system in Northeast Asia is precisely the issue of reducing Japan's military strength.

During the Cold War era, the United States intentionally urged Japan to build up its military strength. But, now that the strategy of blocking the Soviet Union has lost its raison d'etre, the United States has responsibility for pushing ahead with Japan's arms reduction so as to contribute to regional security.

One contribution from the United States and Japan to Asia and the Pacific can be that the two jointly promise Japan's arms reduction. It is desirable that the "two plus four" formula should be expanded into a device of not only checking North Korea's nuclear weapons, but also deterring Japan's military buildup.

That Colin Powell, U.S. chief of staff now visiting Japan, actively supported the PKO (peacekeeping operations) bill and urged the need for Japan's military buildup runs counter to the times.

USSR Asks Help To Privatize Military Industry

SK2011023091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0148 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union has invited South Korean companies to take part in its efforts to privatize its military industry, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said Wednesday.

The invitation came from the Federation of Soviet Economy together with its draft proposal for the conversion of the military industry into civilian use, ministry officials said.

The federation is scheduled to hold a seminar on the subject on Nov. 28, according to the invitation which was addressed to the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation.

The Soviet federation suggested 69 areas in which Korean companies could participate on a joint venture basis. They include explosives, medical machinery and equipment, radar and satellite communication facilities, optical equipment, testing facilities for automobile engines and aircraft and light helicopters, the officials said.

For joint development, the Soviets recommended 15 areas including air purification system, supercomputer, dental machinery and equipment, food processing plants and automobile parts.

A list of 24 items and technology the Soviet Union is offering to sell to South Korea includes explosives, laser technology and rocket firing facilities, the officials said.

The Soviet Union plans to privatize some 555 military-related industries within 5 years in order to revitalize its sagging economy.

Foreign Minister Greets USSR's Shevardnadze

SK2111060791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0546 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok sent a telegram to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Thursday, congratulating him on his reappointment.

Yi said he hoped relations between Korea and the Soviet Union would improve further after Shevardnadze's return to the top diplomatic post.

Shevardnadze, 63, was foreign minister for five years before he resigned in December last year, warning of looming dictatorship in the Soviet Union.

Buddhist Leader Visits PRC, Proposes Exchanges

SK2011131791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0902 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—The Rev. So Ui-hyon, chairman of the Korean Buddhist Association, said Wednesday that he had agreed to form a bilateral friendship promotion committee with a Chinese organization to expand Buddhist exchanges between their nations.

The Rev. So, in a news conference on returning from a six-day trip to China, said that he proposed the plan to Zhao Puchu, chairman of the Chinese Buddhist Association, to expedite religious exchanges.

Zhao showed a positive attitude toward two-way exchanges and said Buddhism should play a bridging role to speed up diplomatic ties between Korea and China, So said.

He said he had intended to meet with North Korean Buddhist leader Pak Tae-ho, but Pak refused his offer.

EC Welcomes No Tae-u's Non-Nuclear Declaration

SK2111032591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Brussels, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—The European Community (EC) Wednesday welcomed South Korean President No Tae-u's recent non-nuclear Korean peninsula peace initiatives and urged North Korea to sign and implement safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) without further delay and preconditions.

"President No's statement provides an important reaffirmation that South Korea will stand by its commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty." The EC said in a statement.

The statement said No's Nov. 8 declaration represented important confidence building measures on the Korean peninsula and called on North Korea to respond positively to No's declaration.

Sides Discuss Compromise Proposals at S-N Talks

SK2111013991 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 21 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] At the third round of contact held between the delegations of the two sides to the high-level talks at Tongilgak in the North side's area of Panmunjom on 20 November, the South and North put forward their respective compromise proposals on controversial issues, including the establishment of a system to achieve peace.

The two sides agreed to discuss the compromise proposals in earnest at the fourth round of contact after each going through internal consultations. They also agreed on holding the fourth round of contact on 26 November.

A government source said: At the third round of contact, the North Korean side proposed that such controversial issues as the establishment of permanent missions and a system to achieve peace, issues over which the two sides are sharply divided, be included in the agreement only as a "declaration" and that the particulars be discussed in the subcommittees.

The same source said: Since North Korea came up with compromise proposals in a bid to reach an agreement, whether or not the two sides will reach an agreement depends on what kind of decision we will make. Therefore, the fourth round of contact will be a watershed.

Details Finalized for S-N Women's Meeting

SK2111115191 Seoul YONHAP in English 1125 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—Final details were settled Thursday for the first inter-Korean contact of women social leaders next week since the national division in 1945.

Meeting in a liaison contact at the truce village of Panmunjom, South and North Korean representatives exchanged safety guarantees and set the itinerary of the North Koreans to participate in a seminar on "Peace in Asia and Women's Role" opening here Nov. 25-30.

A 15-member North Korean delegation will cross the heavily- fortified border at 11 A.M. Nov. 25 and attend the two-day seminar Nov. 26-27 with South Korean and Japanese representatives.

The delegates are scheduled to meet with South Korean lawmakers and social leaders and tour museums and industrial sites during their stay.

They will hold a joint press conference with their South Korean counterparts before going back Nov. 30.

The North Korean delegation is comprised of five seminar participants including leader Yo Yon-ku, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, Chong Myong-sun, secretary to the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Fatherland, and Hong Sun-ok, graduate student at Pyongyang University of Religion, four aides and six journalists.

Government Prepares To Release Jailed Dissidents

SK2011045291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0409 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—The government is classifying some 380 jailed dissidents for release in mid-December, but will exclude those who attacked government offices with firebombs, Justice Ministry officials said Wednesday.

The classification was a result of President No Tae-u's meeting with leaders of the Minjung (People's) Party on Monday, they said.

In the first encounter between an incumbent president and a progressive political group, Minjung co-chairman Yi U-chae and two other key post-holders asked No to release dissidents and reinstate their civil rights.

The 380-odd dissidents were all arrested since 1989 and are serving time for violation of the National Security Law, the law on assembly and demonstration, or the law on punishment of firebomb users, the officials said.

They said reinstatement was considered for people convicted under the public security-related laws but who had been paroled or had their sentences suspended.

In 1989, 975 people were arrested for violating the three laws, and over 1,400 in 1990, the officials said.

Military Briefs Dissidents on U.S. Treaty

SK2011131591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0848 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—In an unprecedented move, the South Korean Defense Ministry briefed seven prominent opponents of the Korea-U.S. Wartime Host Nation Support [WHNS] on the agreement Wednesday and sought their understanding of it.

Maj. Gen. Kang Ui-yong, deputy director of the Logistics Bureau, and other officials explained to Chairman Kye Hun-che and other members of a dissident coalition to block the WHNS accord that the pact was aimed at guaranteeing swift deployment of U.S. forces if there were war in Korea.

The WHNS was needed as U.S. forces in Korea were being phased out but the threat of war was not diminishing with North Korea's development of nuclear weapons, the officials said during the hour-long meeting from 1:30 P.M.

Tension has been mounting over the signing of the WHNS as dissidents have geared up to stop it.

A score of dissident groups, led by Kye, recently formed an alliance to block signing of the WHNS, which they called an "unequal" pact.

Some 2,000 collegians in Seoul rallied on their campuses Tuesday and Wednesday, prompting police to beef up security around American facilities across the country.

The two allies initialled the agreement in July and are to sign it in the on-going 23rd binational Security Consultative Meeting.

Under the agreement, Washington will reinforce U.S. forces on the Korean peninsula in the event of a crisis, hostilities or war, and Seoul will provide military and civilian resources and assistance for the reception, onward movement and sustenance of U.S. forces.

The Ministry said the agreement would not be applied in ordinary times and it would not put any additional burden on Korea, but critics had argued that some of its terms were ambiguous and were feared to serve as ground for irrational U.S. demands such as construction of roads and airports for military use and storage of ammunition and other materiel.

"It is certain that the agreement will contribute to alleviating our defense burden. If any clauses of the agreement are found to be disadvantageous to us, it will not be ratified by the National Assembly," Maj. Gen. Kang told the visitors.

Last month, the Ministry made public the nation's defense budget for the first time. It is 9.47 trillion won (12.6 billion dollars) for 1992.

Lawmaker Inaugurates New Opposition Party

SK2011044491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] A political group led by lawmaker Pak Chan-chong, a maverick politician, was inaugurated yesterday.

Seventy-seven people held a preparatory committee meeting to set up the so-called "Council for Political Reforms" and elected Rep. Pak as its chairman.

In a statement, the council said it would push for reforms and make preparations for national unification, claiming that the existing political parties have done much to intensify popular distrust of politics.

Among the council members are several ex-lawmakers including Yi Chong-nam, and four college professors. Choe Tong-won, a famous retired baseball player, also joined the group.

The council is expected to be developed into a political party soon in preparation for the parliamentary elections expected next March.

Pak argued that political reforms should be carried out by "new political forces," not by established parties.

Pak and another independent lawmaker Kim Kwang-il had refused to join the Democratic Party created by a merger in September between the two opposition parties, one led by Kim Tae-chung and another by Yi Ki-taek.

* Chon Appears To Make Political Moves

* Forms Mountain Climbing Club

922C0007 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 8 Sep 91 p 7

[Article by reporter Kwak Pyong-chan: "Thursday Mountain Climbing Club Settled With Characteristics of Commando"]

[Text] Until last July, President No Tae-u did not give up a possibility of reconciliation with former President Chon Tu-hwan.

No has been trying to reconcile with Chon by frequently sending messengers from various sectors to Chon, including former prime ministers, No Sin-yong and Kim Chong-yol; Reverend Kim Chang-hwan; executive chief of the Korean Buddhist Chogye Order, So Ui-hyon; and former National Assemblyman Kim Chong-rye. No even sent current Prime Minister Chong Won-sik to Yonhi-dong [a town where Chon is residing now] to ask for reconciliation. Although he coldly turned these messengers away, Chon expressed certain expectation from No as to the conditions for reconciliation through the messengers.

Fundamental changes started to surface, however, when No indicated that his side could not accommodate Chon's conditions, and Chon's side showed independent efforts to settle pending issues related to the 5th Republic.

One indication of change was that after maintaining a low-key profile for four years, Chang Se-tong, Chon's chief advisor and former director of the Agency for National Security and Planning (ANSP), declared on 14 August his intention to form a new political party. On the occasion of opening his office, Chang declared his intention by saying, "The necessity for a new political party which will be responsible for the 2000's is the request of this era." Chang also indicated that the new political party would participate in the forthcoming 14th general election in 1992 when he said, "Our crippled political culture should be reestablished through the 14th general election."

Chang tried to dissociate the idea of the "Creative New Party" from the 5th Republic's power and to distinguish his efforts from Chon's by saying, "I have never discussed the creation of a new political party with Chon." His explanation was not convincing, however, due to his importance in Chon's camp in the present as well as in the past.

Chon also flatly denied the relationship between the movement of forming a new party and his camp. Even Min Chong-ki, Chon's secretary, harshly criticized Chang's efforts by saying, "Despite Chang's thorough and elaborate personality, it is his mistake if he thought the efforts to create a new political party would be successful."

Despite denials by both Chang and Chon, the ruling circles believe that there must have been a silent agreement between the two. This is because discussions about forming a new party have been going on in the Yonhi-dong camp for a long time.

Although there were some disputes as to who represents the new party, Chon's close followers or a collection of the wide conservative power group, including former ruling power groups during the 5th Republic, seriously considered the creation of a new political party in order to recover the 5th Republic's lost reputation. The movement of a new party was also used for the purpose of threatening the 6th Republic.

get the people's direct judgment on the 5th Republic from the 14th general election, either by forming a new political party or as independent candidates.

One high-ranking Chongwadae official predicted that, "If Chon understands the people's cold reaction in the 14th general election, he has to reevaluate No's efforts to improve their relationship. When Chon and his followers realize the reality objectively, I expect the problems associated with the 5th Republic will be resolved easily."

Accordingly, Chongwadae officials consider the period following the 14th general election, scheduled in March or April of 1992, and prior to the presidential election, toward the end of 1992, as a possible reconciliation period; and they are expected to do some groundwork.

Since Chon returned home from Paiktam Temple, No has been trying to pacify Chon by releasing Chon's younger brother Chon Kyong-hwan, who was jailed in connection with his wrongdoings during the 5th Republic and by nominating Chon's close associates, An Kyo-tok and An Pil-chun, for Senior Presidential Secretary for Civil Affairs and for Minister of Health and Social Affairs, respectively.

Some members of the ruling circles predict that No might allocate some political dividends to Chon by nominating Chon's associates for the 14th general election as the ruling DLP candidates and support them.

On the other hand, the possibility that the Chongwadae side will insist that Chon's faction give in by blocking all the efforts to establish a new political party and to participate in the general election cannot be ruled out.

When Chang Se-tong, the second strongest man of Chon's camp, indirectly indicated a possibility of forming a new political party on 20 August by saying, "The emergence of a creative party is inevitable," Chongwadae carefully analyzed the possibiliy and the progress status of the new political party by gathering information through all available intelligence sources. This indicates the possiblity that Chongwadae might take an uncompromising stance against the efforts of Chon's faction.

Chongwadae hardliners are inclined to believe that Chon's followers, who know the ruling circles' chemistry better than anybody, will not take a political risk by confronting the 6th Republic face-to-face by forming a new political party without the clear possibility of the people's support.

There is a possibility of a face-to-face confrontation between No and Chon, however, since their interests are so different, even though their political roots are the same.

Planning Minister Outlines New Economic Program

SK2011074791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0714 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu said Wednesday that in 1992, the government will try to maintain stable commodities prices and improve the nation's international balance of payments.

Choe, who also heads the Economic Planning Board, said the government will also try to stabilize wages and help reform the management system of big enterprises or chaebol by introducing professional managers.

In its economic policy, the government aims at encouraging fair dispersal of properties of chaebol which are now concentrated in a few individuals and their families, Choe said.

At the same time, the government is resolved to impose maximum taxes on illegal transactions of stocks or inheritances among the family members of chaebol while promoting closer business cooperation between big enterprises and smaller companies.

Choe spelled out the main points of the government's economic policy for 1992 in a speech given at a debate of economic experts sponsored by MAEIL KYONGJE ECONOMIC DAILY on Wednesday.

Commenting on the government order to the Hyundai business group and its founder Chong Chu-yong to pay 136 billion won in penalty taxes, Choe said it is purely a question of tax evasion and not a government action based on political consideration.

"We have to reform corporate management and industrial organizations in order to survive and win in international competition," Choe said.

"Now is the time for all our business enterprises to work not on a group basis but on an industry basis and under the independent and professinal managerial system," Choe said.

Through public offerings of equities and fair and legal inheritance of their wealth, those big corporations should try to become "national enterprises," Choe added.

The deputy prime minister promised that the government will do its best to direct the flow of capital to the nation's exports and manufacturing industry in 1992.

Choe also stressed the need for the stabilization of wages, saying that it was the rapid rises of labor costs that have weakened South Korea's competitiveness in the world market.

In order to maintain wage rises at a stable and reasonable level, the government will help stabilize real estate value and improve workers' welfare systems, Choe said.

The government will also tackle the problems of manpower shortage, expansion of social infrastructure and the development of high technology to reclaim Korea's international competitive strength, Choe said.

Automakers Suffer Sharp Setback in U.S. Market

SK2011055091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0512 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 20 (YONHAP)—A slump in the U.S. automobile market has spelled a sharp setback for sales of South Korean cars since July, the Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association [KAMA] said Wednesday.

Korean automakers exported 53,466 cars to the United States in July-October, down 26 percent from the same four-month period last year. They sold 77,621 cars in the first half, up 21.6 percent, and 131,087 in the first 10 months, down 3.7 percent.

The slide since July came as a shock for Korean automakers, who usually do well in the second half of the year, a KAMA official said.

South Korea exported 63,813 cars to the United States in the first half of last year and 132,113 cars in the second half.

Chang's announcement had an enormous effect on the core of the current ruling circles. The Chongwadae's change of position from the large-district to the small-district election system, for example, is believed to be more beneficial to Chon's followers. The Chongwadae side, which had been promoting the large-district election system as a means of cleaning up the easily corruptible current election system, despite friction with the former Reunification and Democratic Party (RDP) within the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), changed its position to maintain the current small-district system in order to prevent Chon's 5th Republic power group from becoming a real power.

In fact, Kim Yun-hwan, the DLP secretary general, tried to persuade the former Democratic Justice Party (DJP) faction within the DLP, who favors the large-district system, that the small-district system be maintained. Kim's argument was that the small-district system will be more beneficial to the DLP faction in post-No's political era.

Aside from the reaction by Chongwadae to Chon's request, Chon and his loyalists have made efforts to reestablish an independent power group and to recover their lost reputation, manifested in mountain climbing club activities.

Chon started to climb nearby mountains with his close associates after he returned home to Yonhidong following his seclusion in Paiktam Temple early this year. Originally starting as a private activity, the mountain climbing has settled more officially into formal club since last June.

Major figures in the current membership of the mountain climbing club include Chon himself; An Hyon-tae, former chief of the secret service; Min Chong-ki, secretary; Yi Yang-u, attorney at law; Chu Yong-pok, former defense minister; Kim Song-ki, former justice minister; Son Che-sik, former National Unification Board minister; Yi Kyu-ho, former national construction minister; Cha Kyu-hon, former transportation minister; Kim Chu-ho, former agriculture and fisheries minister; Chong Kwan-yong, former government administration minister; former Chon's Chongwadae assistants, Chong Ku-ho, Hwang Son-pil, Pak Yong-chol, and Yi Che-sik; Pak Hi-to, former army chief of the general staff; Ko Myong-sung, former chief of the defense security command; and Kwon Pok-kyong, former chief of the national police headquarters.

They go mountain climbing every Thursday with their wives, unless something special comes up. Although the club does not have an official name, it is unofficially known as the Thursday Mountain Climbing Club simply because they go mountain climbing on Thursdays.

Although Chang Se-tong and Ho Mun-to, former National Unification Board minister, were also regular members, they no longer join the mountain climbing club since Chang declared an interest in forming a new political party and Ho decided to run for the next general election representing Kosong in Kyongnam Province. The two are not excluded from Chon's camp, however. They are understood to be temporarily distanced to carry out specific tasks.

The club members are vehemently opposed to any outside efforts to attach political meaning to this club. They cynically claim that the people isolated by the 6th Republic only go mountain climbing for their health. They claim that even though they talk about state affairs on the mountains, their talks are in general not politically motivated.

No's side, on the other hand, views Chon's mountain climbing club with concern, since they interpret it as a demonstration against President No and the ruling circle in general. Furthermore, No's side considers it an attempt to revive the political power among the 5th Republic's power group members. The club's choice of mountain climbing, in particular, rather than golfing gives No's side the impression that there is a political motivation. This is because mountain climbing traditionally has a political meaning, and because Chon and his current mountain climbing members used to be ardent golfers, rather than mountain climbers.

Secondly, the fact that all the club members are politically oriented and have been critical of the 6th Republic also bothers No's associates. Two of the club members, Pak Hi-to and Ko Myong-sung, have already initiated the ground work for the next election in their respective home towns of Changnyong, Kyongnam Provice and Puan, Chonpuk Province. These two especially are opposed to President No to the extent that they declined No's offer of important positions in the 6th Republic, offered to them as a gesture to soothe the 5th Republic members.

It is known that Chong Ku-ho, Hwang Son-pil, Yi Kyu-ho, and Kim Chu-ho also decided to run for the general election as independent candidates. In addition, among Chon's relatives, a former national assemblyman Kim Sang-ku and Chon's oldest son Chon Che-kuk are also preparing for the elections from their respective election districts of Kimchon, Kyongpuk Province and Hapchon, Kyongnam Privince.

In addition to Chang Se-tong and Ho Mun-to, who are planning to run for the National Assembly from the Kangdong district of Seoul and Kosong, Kyongnam Province, respectively, 10 of the 14 club members are running for the 14th general election. Many of them are already considerd to be strong candidates and are expected to win the election.

Despite the innocent motivation claimed by the club members, the Thursday Mountain Climbing Club has characteristics of a political commando. Chang Se-tong's announcement of a new political party, even though it may not be related to Chon's intention, can be interpreted as an open declaration to form a political power.

The movement to form a political power is evidenced by recently heightened criticisms against President No and by claims to reinstate the political power to the 5th Republic power group. The criticisms against the No government are so direct and candid that they sound like a final notice to No for a fight. The criticisms are so harsh that they indicate that the ties between No and Chon have been broken. The major criticisms consist of No's personal history unknown to the public, covering the 12 December 1979 coup by Chon, the 17 May, the birth of the 5th Republic, and No's role in the 29 June declaration; the fact and fiction of democratization that the 6th Republic claims to have accomplished; the trend of the new authoritarianism in the 6th Republic; the comparative analysis of the wrongdoings of the presidents' relatives in the 3d, 5th, and 6th Republics; and the dishonesty of the 6th Republic, including President No's dual personality.

Min Chong-ki, Chon's secretary, said that, "The reason Chon easily accepted No's requests in the past is because as a former president, he wanted political stability and to avoid economic and social instability. Now, there is no reason and it is no longer necessary to comply with No's requests."

If No wants to restore the private relationship with Chon or the official relationship with the 5th Republic, it is No's problem, not Chon's. Chon's side is no longer trying to improve the relationship with No.

It means that Chon decided to resolve problems concerning himself independently, based on his own viewpoints.

It is still premature to conclude that recent movements on the part of Chon's followers are an effort to form a political power and recover the lost reputation. This is because such efforts can be a means of blackmail to induce more positive efforts to restore the relationship between the two camps from No's side.

It is becoming clearer, however, that the possibility of a reconciliation through negotiation is getting more remote.

In fact, a substantial number of senior Chongwadae members, and DLP secretary general Kim Yun-hwan, are openly indicating disassociation of the 6th Republic from the 5th by saying, "National policies should be set up with the assumption that improving the relationship between the 5th and 6th Republics is not possible."

Chongwadae Watches Chon

922C0007B Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 8 Sep 91 p 7

[Article by reporter Chang Chong-su: "Angry Chongwadae Watches Chon's Move Closely"]

[Text] As the 5th Republic's power group, centered around former president Chon Tu-hwan, makes their move to return to the political arena, including efforts to create a new political party, Chongwadae has clearly shown a complex reaction mixed with anger and bewilderment.

Since Chon returned home to Yonhidong, Seoul from a secluded life in Paiktam Temple, President No's efforts to reconcile with Chon have failed and their mutual feelings have worsened.

Worsening distrust and antagonism between them was seen in Chon's decline of No's invitation to the opening ceremony of the new Chongwadae main office building. Chon showed his displeasure with the invitation itself.

Accordingly, Chongwadae practically stopped its efforts to normalize the relationship between the two presidents. Instead, Chongwadae is developing strategies while carefully observing the movements in Yonhidong to return to politics.

According to No's close associates in Chongwadae, the main reason for failed efforts to improve the relationship between the two is that Chon strongly insists on an open apology from No for his political oppression of the 5th Republic's power group and for the "unjust" clear up of the wrongdoings of the 5th Republic, before a meeting between the two takes places in Chon's home in Yonhidong.

A high-ranking Chongwadae official criticized Chon's request by saying, "The cleanup of the 5th Republic was made in accordance with the historical demand. Asking the president to apologize for this is the same as ordering the president to step down from presidency."

This official also showed displeasure by saying, "Chon intentionally misinterpreted No's efforts for improving their relationship a political give-in, and tried to utilize it for the purpose of his political comeback."

In other words, Chon and his followers requested something impossible of the president, while erroneously thinking that the majority of the people support them through nostalgia for the past.

The atmosphere in Chongwadae, however, is such that it is not in a position to completely give up on the possibility of reconciliation and to prepare for a conflict.

It appears that the majority believes that No will increase his efforts to improve their relationship as his presidential term draws to a close.

One Chongwadae official who was involved in the efforts for reconciliation between the two presidents said, "The burden on president No will be reduced after he retires, if he resolves the problems that occurred during his tenure as president while still in office."

Chongwadae officials anticipate that the environment for reconciliation will be estabilished only after the 14th general election next year. This is because Chon's side, claiming that No's efforts are only superficial and without the true intention of reconciliation, is inclined to

Burma

PRC Aerospace Minister, Delegation End Visit

BK1911161591 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Lin Zongtang, minister of the aerospace industry of the People's Republic of China, and his entourage currently in Myanmar [Burma] at the invitation of Lieutenant General Tin Tun, minister for transport and communication and for social welfare and labor, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air at 1330 this afternoon.

The PRC minister and party were seen of at Yangon airport by Lt. Gen. Tin Tun, minister for transport and communications and for social welfare and labor; U Khin Maung Thein, managing director of Inland Water Transport; U Win Sein, managing director of Myanmar [Burma] Railways; Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and departmental officials; PRC Ambassador Mr. Liang Feng and embassy officials. [passage omitted]

Agriculture Minister Returns From Rome Meeting

BK1911161391 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation headed by Lieutenant General Chit Swe, minister of agriculture and forests and livestock breeding and fisheries, arrived back in Yangon [Rangoon] by Myanmar Airways this evening after attending the 26th conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome on 9-28 November.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon Airport by Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]; Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council; Brigadier General Abel, minister of planning and finance and trade; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; Mr. Oscar J.S. Lazo, resident representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization; and departmental heads and responsible officials of the Ministries of Agriculture and Forests and Livestock Breeding and Fisheries. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Last Vietnamese Refugees Leave Bidong Camp

BK2111065191 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The last batch of 52 Vietnamese boat people on the island of Bidong off northeastern peninsular Malaysia have been transferred to the Sungai Besi refugee camp near Kuala Lumpur. They left in a boat chartered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees yesterday evening, accompanied by members of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society.

Pulau Bidong [Bidong Island] had been the home for 12,450 boat people since 1975. A government spokesman said Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba will officially hand back the island to Terengganu State at the end of this month.

King Hosts Banquet for Singapore President 19 Nov

BK2011152591 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The ability and readiness of the Malaysian and Singapore Governments to settle any problems in the spirit of goodwill are the basis of their strong relations. The paramount ruler, His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah, said tonight that the strong relationship between Malaysia and Singapore had shown the maturity and pragmatism of the leaders of the two countries. His majesty hoped that this would be further developed to enable bilateral relations and cooperation to remain intact and to overcome any problems and distrust. The current state of their relations and cooperation is not only beneficial to the two peoples and countries but has also positively contributed to regional peace, stability, and development. His majesty said this at a state banquet in honor of Singapore President Wee Kim Wee at the State Palace.

His majesty said that close relations between Malaysia and Singapore had resulted from historical similarities, their position as nearest neighbors, and cooperation in various fields, particularly economy and trade. Singapore has achieved rapid economic progress in terms of national development and its people's prosperity through policies initiated by that country's government. Singapore's success and prosperity have become an incentive for other developing countries, particularly those in the region. The importance Singapore attaches to Southeast Asia, particularly ASEAN, is in line with Malaysia's stance.

Mahathir on Conditions for Attending Earth Summit

BK2011044091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0337 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 20 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia may attend next year's environment summit in Brazil if the two meetings preceeding it come up with positive resolutions on the respective roles of North and South countries, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Tuesday.

He said there would be two meetings prior to the summit, the preparatory meeting and the meeting of developing countries.

Malaysia would first assess the outcome of both meetings before deciding whether to attend or not, he said.

"If their outcome stresses on what the rich, the poor, the small and the big countries should do, then we way decide to attend," he said.

The prime minister was speaking to reporters after addressing the 1991 United Nations Malaysia Association (UNMA) forum here.

He said Malaysia would make consideration if it found that the summit sought how all parties should act to reduce environmental pollution.

"But if eventually we realise that it is going to let only the poor countries bear the burden of looking after the environment, then we might as well don't attend," he said. [sentence as received]

He said even before this Malaysia has said it might not attend the Rio de Janeiro summit if it only focus on developing countries, environmental pollution and logging activities. [sentence as received]

As such Malaysia would attend the two meetings preceeding the summit and was not planning to boycott them, said Dr. Mahathir.

Reporters also asked the prime minister on issues he would raise when addressing the G15 summit in Caracas, Venezuela from Nov 27 to 29 Nov.

He said he would, among other things, touch on North-South relations, problems faced by Asian countries, and general South-South issues.

To another question, the prime minister said ASEAN member countries have not officially discussed Vietnam and Cambodia's participation in the regional grouping.

So far, no application has been received, he said.

Envoy Questions UN's Environmental 'Commitment'

BK1911152191 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Malaysia has questioned the commitment of the countries of the North toward the South pertaining to environmental issues. Malaysian permanent representative to the United Nations Tan Sri Razali Ismail said that there were few indications to show that the matter was given top consideration among the developed countries. He said this to the UN conference on environment and development in New York. The text of his speech was released in Kuala Lumpur today.

Tan Sri Razali pointed out that bargains clearly spelled out in the UN resolution 2 years ago had been deliberately blurred as the negotiations proceeded. There had been many disturbing instances of [words indistinct] that can be interpreted as a delusion of commitment. The resolution stated that developing countries would respond positively on environmental issues. Developed countries, meanwhile, would [words indistinct] the development issues crucial to the economic growth of the south to make the development sustainable. The problems pertaining to development to date had not indicated any categorical response from the developed countries in general. Instead, a lot of pressures had been placed on the South. The situation was not uncommon as it had been a known factor that during negotiations, the South would immediately be placed under pressure.

Deputy Minister on PAS's Judicial Challenge

BK2011142591 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Encik [Mr.] Ghafar Baba, says the judicial, the legislative, and executive system which have been the thrust of power of the nation's administration will be undermined if PAS [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party], which subscribes to the system of government based on the Council of Ulama, were to rule the country. By disobeying the court order restraining two members of Semangat '46 from being sworn in as state assemblymen in Kelantan, PAS has clearly shown that it had challenged the country's judicial system.

Speaking to reporters after briefing members of the Melaka Barisan Nasional [BN] election machinery on the Serkam state by-election, he said that the judiciary, the legislature, and executive were interlinked and if one did not conform to the other, the future of the system would not be certain.

Encik Ghafar said PAS' action also showed that the judicial, legislative, and executive system had been undermined and that the future of the system would surely be threatened if the opposition party were to rule the country. He said the PAS would rule the country based on the Dewan [Council] Ulama system and all decisions made by the Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] would require the approval of the Dewan Ulama before they could be implemented.

The deputy prime minister said should this happen, the future of the people, including the Chinese and the Indians would no longer be certain and as such, efforts should be made to prevent the party from ruling the country through the general elections or by- elections.

Commenting on Kelantan Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat statement that the system of constitution monarchy was not Islamic, he said PAS is ruling Kelantan and can do whatever it feels like doing but BN will continue to uphold the existing constitution.

Singapore

Hong Kong Governor Notes 'Friendly' Rivalry

BK1911162491 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Hong Kong and Singapore both realize that the success of the two cities go together and will build each other up. The governor of Hong Kong, Sir David Wilson, who is here on an official visit, said both are in competition, but the two sides are very friendly rivals. In his talks with several Singapore ministers, he said both parties reaffirm that they want the other to succeed. He said he welcomed the increasing interest by Singapore businessmen to invest in Hong Kong.

On Hong Kong's role in regional trade after 1997, Sir Wilson said Hong Kong will go on playing a key role, particularly as a bridge between China and the rest of the region and Europe.

Malaysian King Fetes President; Speeches Cited

BK2011152391 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The heads of state of Malaysia and Singapore have noted that both countries have forged close ties despite occasional [words indstinct]. The point was made at a state banquet hosted by Malaysia's *yang di-pertuan agong* [paramount ruler] in honor of President Wee Kim Wee in Kuala Lumpur.

Sultan Azlan Shah noted the strong political will and determination on the part of both governments to resolve their bilateral problems in the spirit of goodwill. [passage indistinct] The Malaysian king said Singapore's achievements are now examples for other developing countries, particularly those in the region, to emulate. He said the importance that Singapore attaches to Southeast Asia and in particular to ASEAN is line with Malaysia's [words indistinct].

In reply, President Wee noted both Malaysia and Singapore [words indistinct]. President Wee said the two countries have a special relationship and have increasingly recognized many common interests—economic, security, and defense. In recent years, new business and tourism linkages have supplemented traditional, historical, geographical, and family ties. Economic linkages between Singapore and Johor have [words indistinct]. Singapore's relations with other states of Malaysia have also grown with the consent of [word indstinct] authorities. President Wee noted that both sides also (?showed) a strong common interest in ASEAN. He said [words indstinct] intra-ASEAN economic cooperation.

Prime Minister at People's Action Party Meeting

BK1911102191 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Nov 91 p 1

[By Bertha Henson]

[Text] Prime Minister [PM] Goh Chok Tong yesterday made it clear that he stood for a firm and decisive government, even as he continues with his open consultative style.

The government would continue listening, but it would take a firm approach towards those who want changes to policies for the wrong reasons or express contempt for ministers and MPs.

It would govern fairly, give all, rich and poor, an equal chance to move up regardless of race, nurture the talented and give the poor a helping hand.

It would continue to induct good, capable men and women with fighting spirit into its ranks, paying ministers close to market rates to get the best and giving party activists a formal channel to MPship.

This, in a nutshell, was the Goh Chok Tong philosophy of governemnt as he told it to 900 party activists at the third People's Action Party [PAP] Convention at the Singapore Labour Foundation auditorium.

Mr. Goh, the PAP's first assistant secretary general, delivered a 1-1/2 hour keynote speech in which he left no doubt that he wanted the chapter on the Aug-31 general election closed.

Reiterating a point he made at a community visit last weekend, he made it clear that the time for analysis was over.

The fundamental point was that the party had taken 61 percent of the valid votes and 95 percent of the seats and was in a strong positon to govern for the next five years and carry out its programmes to level up society in the next lap.

There was nothing for the party activists to feel defensive or demoralised about. Instead they should rally together to win the next election.

Delivering a short speech first in Mandarin, before turning to his fuller English version, he showed that he was determined to put behind him the image of the disappointed PM.

Yes, he was disappointed with the results but the Government had to start delivering the goods, he said.

And in delivering the goods, it would stick to the fundamentals rather than allow populist pressures, which had started to build up after the election, to force it to change direction.

Neither would he allow his consultative style to degenerate into an "open hunting season" against the Government, he said adding that ministers and MPs would now squash on-the-spot "wrong-headed" views before they take root and spread.

Noting that such views had been voiced by party activists themselves at feedback forums and at the convention, he urged them to remember which side they were on and not be seduced by coffeeshop talk and opposition propaganda.

Senior Minister Lee Kuan yew, the PAP Secrtary General, was not present at the convention, which reopened yesterday with Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who is also Second Assistant Secretary General, discussing the call by some Singaporeans to slow down the pace of policy changes.

Singapore should not slow down, he said, or it would risk being overtaken by other countries.

The convention, which took an introspective look at the party's philosophy and organisation, later saw an intense discussion on one particular paper by the City North District.

The paper said that the party had moved away from being a party of the people and was perceived as being elitist and money-grabbing.

Taking issue with it, Mr Goh said in his closing address that the task for party activists now was to correct this misperception. He provided facts and figures for them to do so.

It was nonsense to say that the PAP was elitist when it was clearly a mass-based party, he said.

While he acknowledged that some policies, for example on education, were elitist, he pointed out that this was part of the Government's philosophy to help those who can move fastest and furthest to go the full length.

The point was that all have a chance to get through the door and move up.

And he made no apologies about the elite rung of political leaders with their degrees and Phds, secured by the PAP through its talent-scouting process.

Good people with vision, the ability to anticipate problems and manage crises like the 1986 recession and recent hijacking of SQ117, are not thrown up by popular elections, he said.

They have to be screened to see if they have the right qualities, the most essential being a fighting spirit, to be ministers and MPs.

Turning to the question of neglecting the poor, he urged party activisits to be objective and look at the facts.

And the fact was that Singaporeans were better off now, with salary increases out-stripping inflation and more and more amenities in their homes, he said, releasing tables on assets and other economic indicators to demonstrate his points.

Indeed, he was bewildered as to why the poll results should turn out the way it did now that everyone was enjoying a better life and he had effected an open consultative style of government.

After pondering a moment, he told activists that he had actually toyed with the idea of dissolving Parliament and calling another election should the PAP lose 20 seats so that Singaporeans could compare life under another political party as a form of "shock therapy".

The bottom-line on "bread-and-butter" issues, which he described as really over "bacon-and-eggs", was that Singaporeans want more subsidies and it was for the party to decide if it should continue its policy to limit subsidies or give more handouts.

If the party decided on the later, it would have to look for another Prime Minister, he said, as this meant he had failed to bring them round to his point of view.

Another misconception that should have been debunked immediately: that the PAP Governemnt was getting richer at the expense of the people.

Yes, it had accumulated surpluses and it now had the "pleasant problem" of how to allocate them to enhance the people's assets, such as sinking it in refurbishing flats, he said.

Concluding with a rallying call to activists, he said: "Whatever the voters may think, whatever the results of the last election, we in the party and Government have done very well.

"There is no need for anyone of us to hang his head low. No need for us to feel ashamed. No need to run away when we are challenged by other people. We can be proud of our achievements and of the fact that we have planned for the future.

"We can hold our head up and look anybody in the eye, either in Singapore or outside Singapore."

Minister Says Foreign Media Ties 'Improving'

BK2011130191 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Nov 91 p 17

[Excerpt] The relationship between the Government and the foreign media is improving because foreign journalists are now clear about Singapore's stand on objective reporting.

"You might have misunderstood us in the past. I do not think you do now," said Minister for Information and the Arts George Yeo at a lunch talk organised by the Foreign Correspondents Association of Singapore.

Speaking on the topic, Singapore and the Foreign Press: The Next Lap, at Raffles Hotel, he said that the Government expected "integrity and detachment" from foreign journalists operating in Singapore, especially those whose newspapers circulated here.

"I assure you that if you act with integrity and detachment, you will find us helpful and courteous," Brigadier-General [BG] (Res) [Reservist] Yeo said with a smile.

But, he added, he was not suggesting that foreign correspondents become "admirers or apologists of Singapore" as that would be self-defeating for the country.

Citing an example of the improved climate, he noted that the circulation of the ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL was recently restored.

It had its circulation cut from 5,000 to 400 copies a day in 1987 after it refused to publish in full a government reply to an article criticising Singapore's second securities market, Sesdaq [Stock Exchange of Singapore Dealing and Automated Quotation].

The JOURNAL, BG Yeo said, had recently invited Finance Minister Richard Hu to be the keynote speaker at a conference it was holding here in January.

Dr Hu declined the invitation as the JOURNAL had not withdrawn its accusation against Sesdaq and the Government was not given the right of an unedited reply.

"So I offered myself to be keynote speaker instead, in order to be friendly to the JOURNAL, and because the Journal had been fair and balanced in its reporting on Singapore over the last two years," BG Yeo said. "If you act with integrity, we will be helpful and courteous.'

In his speech, the minister said that the Government's policy had always been to encourage the foreign press to operate from Singapore.

This was not a whimsical objective as Singapore could only succeed economically if it had the widest access to information, he said.

And while the country had rules against foreign correspondents interfering in domestic politics, these should not affect their ability to operate professionally. [passage omitted]

Shipping Company To Start SRV Services in Dec

BK1911082191 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Nov 91 p 40

[Text] Orient Lines (NOL) will be among the first major local companies to tap the Vietnamese market following the lifting by the Singapore Government over the weekend of its ban on investments in the Indochinese country.

NOL, which has long prepared for such a move, will start freight services between Vietnam and Singapore from next month, said Mr Lim How Teck, chief operating officer of the listed transportation group.

Contacted by THE STRAITS TIMES yesterday, he said that NOL will run a service every 10 days between Ho Chi Minh City and the Republic.

He expects the round service to bring in an initial gross revenue of at least U.S. $300,000 (S [Singapore] $498,000) a month.

It will be operated by a joint venture between NOL and Vietfract—a state-owned shipping company. NOL, through its subsidiary Neptune Agencies, is already the local agent for the Vietnamese company.

For a start, NOL will rely on its Vietnamese partner to provide shipping agency services in Vietnam, he added. The Singapore company does not have plans to station Singaporean staff in the country yet.

Mr Lim said that freight runs will be made on a chartered container vessel with a capacity of 100 to 150 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units).

One reason why NOL intends to charter, instead of purchase a vessel, is that it expects the market to grow rapidly. Chartering provides the flexibility to change the ship quickly to meet increased demand, he said.

He expects to increase the frequency of the service, possibly by introducing a second vessel, in the near future, depending on how quickly demand picks up.

Explaining his company's optimism about the Vietnamese market, he said: "From what we understand, many Taiwanese companies are setting up factories there, and we expect the Americans to follow soon."

Another local giant corporation, Singapore Airlines, is reported to be planning scheduled flights to Vietnam by its wholly-owned subsidary, Tradewinds.

Previous newspaper reports quoted sources as saying that the scheduled flights would take off within the next month of so.

Growth Rate Continues Slowdown in 3rd Quarter

BK1811162291 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Nov 91 p 1

[Excerpt] The economy continued to slow down in the third quarter, growing by just 6.5 percent.

This brought growth for the first nine months to 7.1 percent—still on track however for the official projection of 6.5-7 per cent for the whole year.

Announcing the third quarter economic figures yesterday, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said that for next year, with external prospects still uncertain—including the slower pace of economic recovery in the U.S.—its "tentative" assessment is that the Republic will see 5 to 7 percent growth in 1992.

This 5 to 7 percent range is also the average growth rate which Singapore should be able to achieve in the next five years with upgrading of the workforce and restructuring of the economy, according to Deputy Prime Minister BG [Brigadier General] Lee Hsien Loong at last month's National Business Forum.

The latest survey of business expectations also supports MTI's modest growth projection for next year. It showed that both industrialists and businessmen are "less optimistic" about general business conditions for the six months up to March 1992.

Mr Lan Chuan Leong, MTI's permanent secretary, said that the slowdown in the third quarter occurred in the two largest sectors, manufacturing and financial and business services.

"Because of weaknesses in these two sectors, growth for the whole year would only be around 6.5 to 7 percent," he said.

The major factors hitting the economy were restructuring in the disk drive industry, slowdown in overseas demand and consolidation in the financial market.

The two sectors which recorded the highest growth in the third quarter were construction and commerce, growing by 22.5 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively.

He added that the Singapore economy is "slowing down quarter by quarter," which is not unexpected" given that Singapore's long-term sustainable growth is 4 to 6 percent. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Sihanouk: Peace in Nation Still Very Fragile

BK2011003291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] On 15 November in Phnom Penh, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, told French radio and television reporters that he was extremely moved and proud to stay in Cambodia working for the nation, people, and motherland. He added that there is unparalleled freedom and dignity as a result of his long struggle against the Vietnamese.

Answering questions on the prospect of future peace in Cambodia, he said: Now peace in Cambodia is still very fragile. However, with our drive, our Cambodia in the end will certainly achieve peace with independence and sovereignty.

The samdech further said that he was very happy with the very warm welcome accorded to him by Phnom Penh residents.

Sihanouk, Chea Sim Visit Exhibition Hall 19 Nov

BK2011051791

[Editorial Report] Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 19 November carries a 30-minute report with a portion recorded on the visit made by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and wife to an exhibition hall in Phnom Penh.

The announcer starts by saying that "On the morning of 19 November 1991, Samdech Preah Norodom Shanouk and the royal consort, accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly and of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense's National Council, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and wife, and entourage, visited an exhibition at the National Exhibition Hall."

Upon arriving at the exhibition hall, Sihanouk was warmly greeted by members of the CPP Central Committee and other officials, namely "H.E. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mr. Say Phuthang, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the CPP Central Committee's (?Control Commission); Gen. Bou Thang, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces; Mr. Chea Soth, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mr. Sar Kheng, chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Organization Commission, and chief of the CPP Central Committee's Cabinet; Mr. Say Chhum, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mr. Mat Ly, vice chairman of the National Assembly and of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Gen. Tie Banh, member of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of national defense; Mr. Nguon Nhel, agriculture minister; Mr. Ney Pena, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Gen. Sin Song, minister of interior; and Mr. Sim Ka, chairman of the Phnom Penh city party committee and people's committee."

After the welcoming ceremony, the samdech and his royal consort, the State of Cambodia leaders, and national and international guests viewed the exhibition. The samdech and his consort were very pleased with the achievements made by the Cambodian people in all fields of national construction and development under the wise leadership of the CPP and State of Cambodia [SOC] Government.

In a 28-minute recorded speech, Sihanouk starts by expressing his "profound gratitude to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and his wife" for inviting him to the exhibition, praises the achievements made under the leadership of the current CPP and SOC Government, expresses his great joy over the opportunity to return to meet his children again, and refers to the decision of the current party and government to link their "national development work" to the mission in the samdech's Sangkum Reas Niyum era, that is "the time when we were united" prior to the coup d'etat of 18 March 1970 by Mr. Lon Nol.

After praising the CPP and SOC Government's efforts in national development following a backward period since the coup d'etat by Lon Nol and the Pol Pot era, Sihanouk says: "The SOC, with H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and H.E. Heng Samrin as leaders, and the CPP have called on me to become the shelter, as in the past, [applause] of our nation, motherland, children and people. They have asked me to be the father of the CPP and the SOC Government. Their Excellencies Chea Sim, Hun Sen, and Heng Samrin have become members of my family, my children. This is a great honor and a great source of happiness for me. I am very lucky that all compatriots and children have been this kind to me."

After talking for a few more minutes about national reunion, Sihanouk says: "Now that we have united as one, we, (?Sihanouk) and the CPP and SOC, must continue this correct policy, strive to defend our national independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity and our people's freedoms, jointly seek ways and unconditional aid from friendly countries around the world, and join hands with the United Nations which is waiting to help us in order to mobilize our national forces, measures, and resources together with the friendship and unencumbered aid from our friends throughout the world to enable our country, our motherland, our beloved Cambodia to progress rapidly and become equally developed as all other countries and have equal honor as other countries—not only the small but the big countries as well."

He then talks for 10 minutes about the all-around national achievements and sacrifices made by the CPP and SOC Government as shown in the exhibition, the suffering of the Cambodian people since the era of Lon Nol and Pol Pot, and his current role as the center of national reconciliation.

Turning back to the aid issue, Sihanouk says: "Anyone, any international organization which wants to give aid should directly contact H.E. Hun Sen, and send it directly to H.E. Hun Sen. I have learned that after receiving this aid successively, H.E. Hun Sen and his government and the CPP have correctly distributed this aid (?to the people). I thank you very much. I can continue seeking (?more) aid, but I will not be the recipient. I will just ask for aid and the donors, countries kindly giving the aid, the United Nations, and other organizations giving the generous aid should send it directly to H.E. Hun Sen, to the authorities of the SOC Government which will correctly distribute it for effective improvement of our people's livelihood, for the prosperity of our country. That is, the aid will be distributed fairly, effectively, and correctly for the (?benefit of) our people." He also says that the Thai delegation which is due to arrive on 20 November will bring more aid to Cambodia.

Sihanouk ends his speech after a 6-minute reiteration of his great joy over his reunion with all children and compatriots as in the old days, saying that he will meet them again tomorrow at the boat-racing festival, and extends best wishes to them.

Sihanouk Receives British Envoy's Credentials

BK2011063091 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0408 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 Nov (SPK)—The chief of the British diplomatic mission, David Burns, on Tuesday presented to Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Phnom Penh his credentials as ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC).

This was the seventh ambassador accredited to the SNC, an organ set up on 10 September last year in Jakarta grouping all rival Cambodian factions. The first six are from France, Australia, Thailand, the DPRK, Japan, and the United States.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman, highly appreciated the efforts of the British Government particularly in the Cambodian peace process.

For his part, David Burns attributed to Prince Sihanouk's own efforts the achievement of the 23 October peace agreement in Paris.

Hun Sen, Ranariddh Speak at Signing of Alliance

BK2111071291 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] On the morning of 20 November at the office of the cabinet of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee a ceremony was held to sign an alliance with the FUNCINPEC party [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], under the lofty chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense. This document was signed by H.E. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, general secretary of the FUNCINPEC movement, with the participation of members of the standing committee of the CPP countries and leading officials of the FUNCINPEC party.

This is a historic event in which the two parties unite as one for the common goal of unifying the nation and building and developing the motherland toward quick progress and glory aimed at bringing peace and happiness to the people.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Hun Sen stresses the following:

[Begin Hun Sen recording] Today, we are happy because the two parties [words indistinct] sign an alliance between the party and the FUNCINPEC movement, represented by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of the Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, who recently returned to the country and has been considered by the People's Party [short for CPP] and the State of Cambodia's Government as the father of the entire nation as well as the CPP.

On this occasion, I would like to solemnly declare that the agreement signed at this ceremony will become an (?invaluable) cooperation between the two parties aimed at implementing well the agreement on a political solution in order to ensure (?stability) [words indistinct]. Prince and Excellencies, please trust the spirit of sincerity and good cooperation between our two parties, namely the FUNCINPEC and the CPP. [end Hun Sen recording] [applause]

Afterward, Prince Norodom Ranariddh made a speech stressing:

[Begin Ranariddh recording] [passsage indistinct] a sucessful day, the day when the CPP and the FUNCINPEC movement with me as representative sign an alliance between Cambodian nationalist political movements. For a long time, our leaders, like myself, have thought about the [words indistinct] this alliance since I had the opportunity to get to know H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen when we held talks to solve the so-called Cambodian problem.

[passage indistinct] parties, namely our two political movements [words indistinct]. The second stage, we have signed an agreement in Paris on 23 October [words indistinct] invited the samdech to return to the motherland to the warmest welcome from the children [words indistinct] entire Cambodian nation. H.E. Chairman Chea Sim clearly said at the (?mass meeting) and as H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen has just kindly recalled, the CPP considers Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk as the father of the CPP. For this reason, we, who for many years have considered ourselves as direct children of the samdech euv, the people do not understand why these two parties—which stand on the same lofty national ideals—the samdech euv [passage indistinct].

In conclusion, I, on behalf of the FUNCINPEC movement, pledge to their excellencies here that this agreeement is based on the most sincere goodwill. As the samdech has said, he very much wants his (?children) to unite in order to strengthen peace, freedom, happiness, prosperity, progress, and stability in our beloved and sacred motherland and people [words indistinct]. He also said that he will warmly support 100 percent the alliance between [words indistinct]. I hope that our two united movements [words indistinct] forever and a guarantee for the happiness for our Cambodian people. [?If we are united], no enemies can cause problems or commit violations againt our Cambodia. And all of us [words indistinct] to serve the royal mission of the Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and lead it to 100 percent success. We have the duty [words indistinct]. Thank you. [end Ranariddh recording] [applause]

Thai Foreign Minister Asa Arrives in Phnom Penh

BK2011041291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0323 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 20 (AFP)—The first foreign minister from a country that supported rebels fighting the Phnom Penh government for 13 years arrived here Wednesday.

Thailand's Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin arrived on a military C-130 transport plane for a three-day visit.

He was expected to sign agreements concerning agriculture, and the return of 350,000 Cambodian refugees who are living in camps on the Thai side of the border with Cambodia.

Thailand had supported the Khmer Rouge and its allied resistance factions during a 13-year civil war, which ended with the signing of a peace agreement last month.

Asa was accompanied by Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun and Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon.

He was greeted by Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, and was to have an audience with Prince Norodom Sihanouk later in the day.

Prince Sihanouk returned from exile last week to head an interim body called the Supreme National Council (SNC), which joins the Phnom Penh government with the resistance under United Nations supervision.

Five members of the Khmer Rouge faction also arrived Wednesday aboard a commercial plane from Bangkok.

Khieu Samphan, an SNC member whose presence is necessary before the council can meet, was not among the group.

Hor Namhong met briefly with the Khmer Rouge group, whose top-ranking member was a military official named Mao Savy, before greeting Asa.

Calls on Prince Sihanouk

BK2011144191 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] A Thai delegation led by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin paid a courtesy call on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, in Phnom Penh. Included in the delegation are Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun, Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon, Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun, and representatives from various agencies. The delegation arrived at the Pochentong Airport in Phnom Penh this morning aboard on an Air Force C-130 plane. They were welcomed by Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the Phnom Penh government. This is the first visit to Cambodia by a ministerial-level delegation.

Asa Sarasin called on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC, at the Khemarin Palace. A letter of credentials appointing Major General Nawet Na Nong Khai as a special envoy to Prince Norodom Sihanouk was also presented to the prince on the occasion. Prince Norodom Sihanouk thanked Thailand and the Thai Government for helping in the restoration of peace to Cambodia.

Talking to reporters later, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said his visit is a show of support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the SNC, which is regarded as the highest Cambodian institution under the Paris peace accord. The foreign minister added that the two documents to be signed tomorrow will benefit both countries.

The Thai Government's aid to Cambodia is worth about 90 million baht and covers medicine, health, agriculture, banking, and technological training programs. Asa Sarasin was also invited by Prince Norodom Sihanouk to preside over the opening ceremony of the regatta, an important annual festival of Cambodia, at the floating pavilion on the Tonle Sap river. There were a large crowd of Cambodian people witnessing the regatta.

Urges Fair Business Dealings

BK2111023191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Nov 91 p 9

[Text] Phonom Penh—Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin urged Thai businessmen not to take advantage of Cambodia, while the Thai Government pledged continuous support for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

The minister appealed to Thai businessmen to view themselves as representatives of the kingdom entrusted with the responsibility of building credibility.

"I urge businessmen to consider what Cambodia will gain from the process as well," he said.

The Thai Government is concerned about the conduct of Thai businessmen, who are rushing in to cash in on the new transition to peace in Cambodia.

It does not want the image of the country to be tarnished by unscrupulous profiteering, as has sometimes been the case in the past, Thai officials said.

"We do not want anything but friendship and to promote trade and economic cooperation that is mutually beneficial," Mr Asa said.

The Foreign Minister became the first foreign dignitary to visit Phnom Penh since the home-coming on November 14 of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council.

In Mr Asa's delegation which arrived at Pochentong Airport for a three-day official visit yesterday were Deputy Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangku and Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon.

During the audience of the Thai delegation with Prince Sihanouk at the Royal Palace yesterday, Maj-Gen Nawet na Nong Khai was officially accredited as special envoy to Prince Sihanouk.

The prince expressed his "most affectionate gratitude" to Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and called Maj-Gen Nawet "my younger brother," for taking care of Cambodian royalty during their visits to Thailand since 1982.

Maj-Gen Nawet and his wife will stay in the Kantobopha, a building in the palace grounds named after the prince's favourite daughter, who died of leukaemia in 1952.

Prince Sihanouk asked Mr Asa if Maj-Gen Nawet could accompany him "everywhere, I need somebody in uniform around me... for prestige."

The prince said the naming of Maj-Gen Nawet as a special envoy "means relations are very close and very special. Other countries have only an ambassador, not a special envoy."

Prime Minister Hun Sen and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, who are members of the SNC from the Phnom Penh government, were present during the audience.

Speaking to reporters, Mr Asa said he brought with him the "goodwill and sincerity" of Thailand for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

"Thai policy is clear... we have exercised efforts to improve ties with our neighbours. We have begun the process with Laos, Vietnam and now Cambodia. This is indeed the first time since World War II that we have had peace in this neighbourhood and we will cultivate relationships that will benefit all," he said.

Mr Asa brought with him medicine and aid items from the Public Health Ministry and the Thai Red Cross to present to Cambodia at a ceremony today.

Thailand has proposed rebuilding the 48-kilometre road between Poipet and Sisophon for 70 million baht.

The road would facilitate the repatriation of over 300,000 Khmer refugees from Thai border camps. In the long run, it will enable trade and other exchanges between the two countries, Mr Asa said.

In addition, the Thai Government allocated 20.6 million baht for technical assistance and human resources development in Cambodia, for a total aid to Cambodia of 90.5 million baht.

"We want to cooperate in these activities, although our contribution may be small," he said.

Thailand "feels honoured" to have played a role in restoring peace, and will continue to fully support implementation of the UN peace plan, as well as the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia, he added.

Prince Sihanouk has repeatedly said he wanted Cambodia to follow the example of Thailand, he said. "Cambodia is no longer communist, it has embraced capitalism."

"We must accept that socialism doesn't work. Capitalism, though not perfect, is better than socialism," he said.

The minister joined the prince and foreign dignitaries in a sala in front of the Royal Palace by the Tonle Sap to watch a long-tail boat race as part of the annual three-day Water Festival, which started yesterday.

Prince Sihanouk and Mr Asa will sign a joint communique today outlining the strong, cooperative relationship between Thailand and Cambodia.

After the signing, a tripartite memorandum of understanding on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees will be signed by the Foreign Minister, Prince Sihanouk and a representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Refugee Memorandum Signed 21 Nov

BK2111115291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1059 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK, Nov. 21—Cambodia, Thailand and the High Commissioner for Refugees [HCR] signed here in Phnom Penh this afternoon a memorandum on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

The tripartite memorandum was signed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC; Asa Sarasin, Thai foreign minister; and HCR Director of Asia Department from Geneva Mr. J. Anvars.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Prince Norodom Sihanouk thanked the Royal Government of Thailand and the UNHCR for giving sanctuaries and humanitarian aid to more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees over the past years.

He also requested Thailand to continue to take care of them while they are waiting to return to Cambodia.

The prince, who returned here on November 14 to preside over the coming session of the SNC, said that the repatriated refugees would be placed in suitable sites and provided with jobs so as to ensure their proper living conditions.

To ensure safety for the repatriates, groups of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) recently arrived here for conducting, among other work, the mine clearance for the repatriation of some 300,000 Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand.

Medicines, Aid Provided to SNC

BK2111123091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1054 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Nov. 21 - Thailand has provided 9.5 tons of medicines to the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia.

The aid was handed over in Phnom Penh Thursday to SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk by Thai Forign Minister Asa Sarasin, who is on a current visit here.

The aid included nine tons of pharmaceutical products worth about million baht [as received] donated by the Thai Government and the remaining 500 kilogrammes of medicines, mosquito nets, and canned food provided by the Thai Red Cross Society.

Thailand will offer funds to repair the portion of Highway 5 linking the border town of Poipet to the town of Sisophon. The cost of the reparation is estimated at 70 million baht, according to the Thai foreign minister.

Mr. Asa Sarasin also extended an invitation to the prince to pay a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Japanese, Thais Reported Probing for Investments

BK1911045591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Nov 91 p 4

[Text] Phnom Penh—Thailand has the knowledge about Cambodia, Japan has the know-how. With these strengths combined, they can form a formidable force to compete with others in future trade and investment in Cambodia.

At this stage when peace is being introduced to Cambodia through the UN plan signed in Paris last month, Japanese enterprises, big and small, are investigating the situation in Cambodia, gathering data about the size of the market, the economy, the potential, and devising future strategies.

From last year until the signing of peace agreements in October, practically all internationally known companies and countless other medium and small enterprises have shuttled into Cambodia, in the absence of Japanese Government backing. Thorough studies and data collection have taken place while they awaited the green light—Official Development Assistance (ODA)—to pour into this war-ravaged country.

Just as the Japanese business sector identified ODA as a guarantee against investment risks, beckoning economic expansion, the Thais thought the imminent presence of UN in Cambodia was enough to warrant good prospects for immediate terms.

Japan's Ambassador to Cambodia Yuko Imagaza, who became formally accredited to the Supreme National Council yesterday, insisted that he could not say exactly when and how much Japan can provide ODA loans, grants and credits for Cambodia.

Before the peace agreement was signed, the Japanese business sector enjoyed total freedom to contact, cooperate or invest in Cambodia but "100 per cent at their own risk," Ambassador Imagawa said.

Although the peace treaty virtually tore down the political barriers for Japanese business activities, Japanese businessmen thought Cambodia was not an immediately attractive place for investment for a number of practical reasons.

After over 16 years of devastation since the Khmer Rouge reign of terror and the Vietnamese occupation, Cambodia is a severely impoverished nation with limited purchasing power, although Phnom Penh has lately been prosperous. The country does not have a financial system to facilitate transactions, import and export.

There is no law to protect investment against nationalisation. These factors made Japanese enterprises think hard about getting active.

"For the moment, the pie is limited. They are waiting for the government to resume ODA, which will mostly grant aids to Cambodia," the ambassador said.

Japan has pledged to play an active role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Cambodia.

According to Ambassador Imagawa, private survey missions from Japan have been in Cambodia since last year and they have equipped the Japanese private sector with a remarkable wealth of information. "They know about the economic situation, the needs of Cambodia better than we do," he said.

Another important aspect, according to trade sources, is that the Japanese have sought to establish connections and contacts with the Phnom Penh Administration.

Presently, a Japanese company called Odaka Timber is operating Cambodia's most sophisticated timber processing facility on the bank of the Tonle Sap. By far this is the only substantial Japanese investment in Cambodia, in additon to concessions for off-shore oil exploration acquired by Nissho Iwai.

But the outlook is a promising one.

When all the necessary elements are in place, most importantly the arrival of ODA and the gradual recovery of Cambodia's economy, the Japanese and Thais will be perfect partners to do business and invest in Cambodia, Ambassador Imagawa said.

A prominent Thai businessman recently in town to cultivate connections for future investment deals said he viewed the advantage of Thailand more in its location. Goods and equipment needed for the reconstruction of Cambodia, and future flow of products will be transported through the Phnom Penh-Poipet route, he said. Poipet is opposite the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet.

"Japanese companies will be strong here if they cooperate with their Thai counterparts. Japan has long experience in Thailand but they have no experience in Cambodia. Besides, some of the Japanese companies have good, intimate relationships with Thai partners," said the ambassador.

Nevertheless, he stressed that joint Thai-Japanese investment activities in Cambodia will not come about in the near future, at least over the next couple of years.

Regarding ODA for Cambodia, Japan needs from the Cambodian authorities a list of projects in order of priority. For this purpose, a mission from the Japanese Government will be in Phnom Penh around January to conduct "serious consultations and negotiations with the SNC" about a project list for ODA.

Cambodia is in dire need of humanitarian aid for medicare, public health and the reintegration of over 350,000 refugees. Next, Cambodia would need to reinstall basic social infrastructure such as housing and schools. Efforts can then be made on agricultural development.

Ambassador Imagawa said that although ODA projects may require procurement and contracts with Japanese companies, the ODA activities are not considered an investment by the Japanese private sector.

The decision makers for ODA are the powerful ministries of Finance, International Trade and Industry, and Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Imagawa said the Japanese Government cannot be endlessly generous in showering Cambodia with aid. The spending must be justified by a reasonable list of projects with proper order of priority, taking into account Japan's own pocket.

In preparation for the trip of the mission, the government headquarters in Tokyo is also conducting policy planning for economic aid and cooperation with Cambodia, according to Ambassador Imagawa.

So far he has received no request from the Phnom Penh administration, which controls over 90 percent of the country. Although Japan will have to deal significantly with the Phnom Penh Government, the ambassador said, Tokyo will not rule out "reasonable requests" for ODA activities in areas controlled by the resistance factions.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe last August visited Phnom Penh while he was a parliamentarian holding no Cabinet position. During his visit here, he met with Prime Minister Hun Sen and Phnom Penh's strongman Chea Sim.

Asked to comment on the activities of France which is aggressively staking a claim over its former colony, Ambassador Imagawa said what the French are doing is very good for Cambodia, and that France is very familiar with the Cambodian psychology.

"Compared with the French and the Thai, the Japanese are very shy having a very small presence here," said the ambassador. "Japan may be later than others, but we are very sincere."

Banker Warns Foreign Investors About Problems

BK1711113591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0205 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By SHERI PRASSO]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 17 (AFP)—With the return of peace and Prince Norodom Sihanouk to Cambodia, ethnic Chinese businessmen are leading a foreign plunge into investment here.

Thai, Japanese, Australian and French companies have all made major investments, encouraged by the prospects for profit in rebuilding war-battered Cambodia.

"But no one is happier about the situation than the Chinese," said one Western diplomat. "They're buying everything."

An ethnic Chinese merchant class flourished here during Prince Sihanouk's pre-1970 rule, but thousands fled or were killed under the Khmer Rouge regime—which tried to "purify" the Khmer race by eliminating foreigners and their influences.

The prince returned last week however following the siging of a peace treaty.

With the lure of money to be made, those Chinese-Khmer who took refuge in Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan and Singapore—and made fortunes in the meantime—are returning with full pockets.

"These people are transferring their money base here because they feel very confident" that the peace will last, said Cambodian-born businessman Hui Keung, whose money helped build the luxury Hotel Cambodiana, where he is chairman of the board.

Hui said he was invited by his personal friend Prime Minister Hun Sen to return from Hong Kong in 1988 and set up the hotel. Now he advises other Chinese investors on where to put their money.

"There are a lot coming now, especially in the last seven or eight months," said Hui, who speaks Mandarin and Cantonese as well as Khmer, the language of most Cambodians.

Much of the investment is in the tourism and hotel industry. Hong Kong-based Cambodian businessman Sour Srun is spending 45 million dollars to renovate the three-star Phnom Penh Hotel.

Figures are difficult to obtain because deals are being done on a handshake and millions are traded without a contract.

The Ministry of Planning's National Committee for Foreign Investment has received 200 project applications from 100 foreign companies in its four months of operation, its chairman Hul Lim said.

Investment of five to 10 million dollars are expected for most projects, except for three major oil exploration projects signed in the past month, he said.

Officials from the seven oil companies involved have said the three projects would be worth 25 million to 30 million dollars each over (word indistinct) years.

Of 69 government-run factories offered for privatization, 40 have been leased to private companies—about 30 percent to overseas Cambodians, 60 percent to other foreigners and 10 percent to local Cambodians—including a brewery, a tire plant and a textile factory, Hul Lim said.

A dozen ethnic Chinese Cambodians living in Thailand, Australia, the United States, Canada and France got together in Bangkok last year to discuss investment in Cambodia.

The company that emerged, TJR Ltd., has put together a detailed plan for investment in industries such as energy production, telecommunications and manufacturing.

While other foreign companies are looking for short-term profit, the company's marketing director Patrick Irwin said TJR has a long-range approach.

"The philosophy of the company is for long-term investment and to encourage overseas Cambodians to return to Cambodia," he said.

As for the possibility that peace will be temporary despite a treaty ending a 13-year civil war, "We're prepared to take the risk."

Despite the optimism, there are concerns that a flood of unrestrained investment could distort the economy more than help it.

"Our biggest concern is to control the situation, to keep it normal," said National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim in a recent interview. "It is also our concern that it is progressing too quickly, but I hope its evolution will be within our framework of control."

Cambodia's investment law, which is still awaiting approval by red-tape bound ministries, contains wide loopholes.

Article 37, for example, requires foreign investors transferring profits abroad to pay a tax of five to 10 percent of the amount, except in "exceptional cases where encouragement of investment is needed."

"Personally, I'm afraid the government is too lenient," said a senior economist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) who spoke on condition he not be named.

The government should lay out guidelines to channel foreign capital into the sectors that most need development, he said.

Controls on foreign exchange trading are also needed, the economist said during a recent trip here to study the resumption of ADB lending.

Aid from Western-aligned countries was suspended after Vietnam invaded Cambodia to oust the Khmer Rouge regime and install a client government in 1979.

The United States announced after the signing of a United Nations-brokered peace accord last month that it would lift its economic embargo.

In addition to Chinese investors, Japanese and Thai companies are moving in en masse. Timber firm Okada Co., for example, invested 5.5 million dollars in a sawmill near Phnom Penh, and Thailand's Fuldaa Corp. has contracted to rebuild Cambodia's only international airport.

One of the three oil exploration projects will be carried out by a Hungarian firm, Nawa Oil Co.

"We are having a rapid and overwhelming influx of foreign capital, of capitalism ... and they are not ready to absorb it," said Hungarian Ambassador Tamas Lajos in a recent interview.

"If my son eats 10 kilograms of chocolate, he's not able to digest it," he said. "It's the same thing."

As foreign companies move in to invest, he warned, Cambodia had better be prepared to handle it.

"Cambodians must understand that economic domination is no better than political domination," he said.

Relations With PRC Said Improved Since Accord

BK2111025191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Nov 91 p A8

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon reporting from Phnom Penh]

[Text] Barely a month since the signing of the Cambodian peace accord, China has quickly recovered ground it lost during a 13-year absence.

The Chinese diplomats, who came here last week, immediately made their presence felt. Rather than staying in Phnom Penh hotels, they chose to immediately return to their old embassy, which had been used by the Defence Ministry as a guesthouse.

Yang Yaozong, first secretary of Chinese Foreign Ministry's Asian Division, expressed satisfaction with the condition of the embassy, which is expected to open early next month when Fu Xuezhang, the Chinese ambassador-designate to the Cambodian Supreme National Council, will present his credentials to Prince Norodom Sihanouk. This will be followed by a visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

In return, the Chinese government has offered US$30,000 (Bt768,000) to Phnom Penh as a token for "taking care" of its embassy. It is not known whether Phnom Penh has accepted the offer.

It all seems ironic, for just a few months ago China was militarily supporting the Khmer Rouge, which has been fighting the Phnom Penh government since they were swept out of power by Vietnamese forces in early 1979.

China has also pledged to give 15-20 tonnes of humanitarian aid supplies to Phnom Penh to help flood victims. An agreement on the aid was worked out during a meeting between Defence Minister Gen Tie Banh and Yang on Nov 13.

Meanwhile, Chinese journalists have been in town to report on the ethnic Chinese community living in Phnom Penh and have held discussions with local Chinese leaders.

China's reappearance on the scene in Phnom Penh was the result of calculated diplomatic moves began in September 1990 during peace talks in Jakarta, where representatives of Phnom Penh and Beijing met for the first time. A second meeting took place at the Chinese embassy a week later, after Thai encouragement.

The two meetings were followed by repeated overtures by Phnom Penh calling for a dialogue with Beijing. Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said last December that Phnom Penh wanted China to listen to its views and positions on the Cambodia war.

Shortly afterward, National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim appointed a group of well-known local Chinese merchants to form an 11-member board to represent the interest of the 50,000-80,000-strong Chinese community. The Overseas Chinese Association in Cambodia was established a few days later.

Since then, the Chinese here have enjoyed new freedoms such as the right to celebrate Chinese New Year's and practice ancestor worship, as well as to reopen Chinese shrines and to open a Chinese school.

The revival of Tuan Hua—the most famous Chinese-language school during the Sihanouk period, which was shut down by Gen Lon Nol—has however been postponed indefinitely. Chinese community leaders want their children to study Chinese and had set their priority on the opening of Tuan Hua.

A Chinese community leader, who asked not to be named, said that present occupants of the former Chinese school have refused to move out from the premise. He said that last month, the association's board members met with Chea Sim to discuss Tuan Hua's future.

The association, which paid a large sum as a deposit several months ago to secure the former school and compensate the present occupants, was urged by Chea Sim to look for a new location. The school is expected to enroll at least 1,000-2,000 young students in its first year.

The Chinese community leaders have said that without an appropriate site it would be hard to reopen a Chinese language school. One of the leaders said it would probably take about US$50,000 to secure a new place, which was next to impossible for the association. Already, some of them have pinned their hopes on the Chinese embassy for assistance.

Under Sihanouk, the Chinese community flourished and played an active part in Cambodia's economy. Tuan Hua Chinese school, which gave current local leaders their Chinese education, has an history spanning over 60 years. It was first set up in the 1930's by a group of leading Chiense businessmen.

The size of the Chinese community reached a record high of 425,000, or 6 per cent of the population, in the early 1960's when Sihanouk was still in power. Of the total number of Chinese in Cambodia in the 1960s, 95 per cent were merchants. Sihanouk's government was given help by 2,000 Chinese technocrats working for him. But during the Khmer Rouge's 1975-78 reign, the number of the Chinese residents was reduced to 40,000.

The moves to improve Chinese community's freedom and the revival of Tuan Hua school have coincided with Phnom Penh's effort to improve ties with Beijing and to distance the Khmer Rouge from its Chinese patron.

Phnom Penh-based diplomats believe China will play a greater role in the future here, as the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries no longer provide assistance to Cambodia. It appears that China will provide techncial and financial resources to reactivate Cambodia's discarded industries.

China has also shown keen interest in reviving five industrial projects that were built with aid form Beijing in the past. Among these are a cement factory in Kampot, a textile factory in Kampong Cham, and paper-pulp, pine-wood and glass factories in Phnom Penh's suburbs.

Furthermore, China's future participation in development projects in the upper Mekong River will place it into the mainstream of mainland Southeast Asia development as never before.

While other counties, Thailand included, build up their presences here slowly and cautiously, Sino-Cambodian ties have already begun to flourish.

Ties With Laos Seen 'Withering' in Past Months

BK2011034591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Nov 91 p A8

[Text] Cordial relations between mainland Southeast Asia's smallest and poorest nations, Cambodia and Laos, have been shaken by recent events in Cambodia: the Cambodian peace accord and its swift political changes.

Relations between Laos and Cambodia have for many years been focused mainly on political issues related to the Cambodian conflict. Throughout the 13-year conflict, Vientiane saw its support as part of Indochina's solidarity and historical links among ruling communist parties in the three Indochinese countries.

A Cambodian foreign ministry official, who served in Laos for four years, said his country and Laos are "good and honest" friends, who do not have any mutual problem.

But in the past few months, their relations have been withering, as each nation refocuses its foreign policy toward the West and Thailand. When it was clear the Cambodian settlement was nearly agreed, Laos, which has maintained close relations with the West, intensified its diplomatic efforts overseas to secure more foreign assistance from the West and Japan. At the same time Phnom Penh's leaders are trying to win more support from abroad.

Some Lao leaders are apparently worried the world is going to pass by this landlocked country. When deputy Prime Minister Khampoui Keoboulapha attended the annual World Bank meeting in Bangkok recently, he cautioned that the West should not divert its assistance from developing countries to the Soviet Union. Now, with peace in Cambodia, all the attention that could have been focused on Laos will now shift to its southern neighbour, the leaders contend. "Laos is stable, unlike Cambodia, which needs all the help it can to rebuild the war-ravaged land," said the Asian diplomat.

"In the past few years, the number of non-government organizations [NGO's] helping Laos has increased. Now there are 60 NGOs in Phnom Penh," said a relief worker, working for one of the two dozen relief organizations in Laos.

The helps explain why both Laos and Cambodia are anxious to see the progress of the Mekong Committee, which began discussions last week in Bangkok, after more than 15 years of inertia due mainly to the political situation in Cambodia. Mekong projects would keep Laos, along with Cambodia, alive and well in the minds of international aid agencies and strengthen their bilateral cooperation.

However, the Cambodia official said the prevailing changes in Phnom Penh and the presence of United Nations' peace-keeping forces would make Cambodia a more internationalized country than Laos. "Cambodia is already free with a multi-party system and everybody is coming in," he said.

A Vientiane-based Japanese diplomat, whose country provides more than 50 per cent of Western aid to Laos, dismissed the idea that Cambodia's political liberalization would have any effect here. "The peace settlement in Cambodia is based on the cooperation of the four factions, so it must be a multi-party system," he commented. Laos has rejected the idea of political pluralism since the current communist leaders came to power in 1975.

Both countries' foreign ministries have been close due to their political cooperation during the Cambodian peace negotiations. Cambodian leaders used Vientiane as their contact point with the outside world. Laotian embassies around the world, except India and those other nations recognizing Phnom Penh, handled the interests of Phnom Penh.

Apart from the political cooperation, there has been very little, if any, substantial bilateral cooperation. Among the top Phnom Penh leaders is Nou Beng, who is vice chairman of Cambodia's National Assembly and a reminder of good Cambodia-Lao relations. Nou Beng is an ethnic Lao leader from Strung Treng bordering southern Laos.

Cambodia-Lao trade relations are very marginal, restricted to trading in logs and items such as crepe rubber, dried food, vegetables and jungle products. Most trading has taken place at the border between Laos' southern province of Champassak and Cambodia's northern province of Strung Treng. Given the green areas straddling along Cambodia-Lao border, trade in logs doubtlessly is a major item. Laos imports most of the logs and jungle products for re-export to Thailand.

Tourism cooperation between the two countries, which began in earnest in 1985, has been slow due to the lack of facilities and hotel accommodation. Now, through third party investment and cooperation, the tourism industry is gaining momentum once again. Combined tours of the two countries are available in Bangkok.

Laos has sent a dozen students to study Khmer art and dance in the past several years as part of an exchange programme. Cambodian students have been given scholarships to study the Lao language.

In recent years, exchanges of official visits have gradually decreased. In the past one and half years, there have been only few senior official visits, except during the Laos party congress in March when Phnom Penh leader Heng Samrin attended the party congress in Vientiane. When Phnom Penh held its national congress in October, no top Vietnamese or Lao leaders were present. This year exchange visits were restricted to just the party's youth organizations and sport exchanges. Recently, the Phnom Penh-Vientiane Shop in Phnom Penh near the Olympic market was closed.

Within the foreseeable future, relations between the two countries will be at a standstill as Cambodia is going through an interim period after the peace settlement, and Laos is attempting to readjust to the fast-changing regional scene.

CPP Issues Instructions on Sihanouk, Changes

BK2111102091 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[20 November "Circular of the Standing Committee of the CPP [Cambodian People's Party] Central Committee"—read by announcer]

[Text] In a spirit of national reconciliation aimed at bringing peace back to the motherland and in sincere implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia dated 23 October 1991, the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] have done their best with the greatest sincerity in order to confer honor on, and create all favorable conditions for the return of, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, his royal consort, and other members of his royal family who have decided to come back home at this time in order to join with our SOC and other members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] on the road toward achieving durable peace and national reconstruction. This undertaking, which began on 14 November 1991, has been very successful and has greatly pleased the samdech, who has become very confident in the sincerity and efficiency of our party and state. For this reason, the samdech has accorded our regime honor, truth, and fairness by publicly announcing his faith in the correct and wise leadership of our CPP and SOC Government since the liberation of the country in 1979. This constitutes a source of common pride for our whole nation. The samdech has expressed great satisfaction with the current political line of our party and state, regarding it as the continuation of the policy of the Sangkum Reas Niyum party that he had led before 1970. He also publicly promised to respect, and not to interfere in, the affairs of our SOC Government.

Besides the samdech's neutral and realistic stance, which accords with the national reconciliation policy of our CPP, his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in his capacity of the general secretary of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], has decided to form an alliance of friendship with our CPP, while Prince Chakkrapong, another of the samdech's sons, has decided with our approval to work for the Government of the SOC.

In such an auspicious ambience, the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee would like to issue the following instructions:

The Propaganda and Education Commission of the CPP Central Committee must cooperate with all provincial and municipal party committees and all party committees subordinate to the Central Committee, as well as their propaganda apparatuses, in order to make photocopies, audio-recordings, and videotapings of all ceremonies attended and remarks made by the samdech, as well as the contents of the speeches by His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and other leaders during the 14 November 1991 banquet and the 16 November 1991 mass rally and at other functions that have already taken place so far and that will take place in the future; included also is the statement of the CPP and SOC Government dated 19 November 1991, declaring support for the retention of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's pre-18 March 1970 coup d'etat title as the legal and legitimate chief of state of all of Cambodia. These will be made in order to widely and thoroughly spread them among the masses of cadres, employees, workers, and people.

In general, it is imperative to muster the combined forces of the party and the entire nation to support the samdech's royal activities in the interest of national reconciliation and in defense of the national gains and have them regard the samdech as the father, the samdech euv of the nation and of our CPP.

At the same time, the Propaganda and Education Commission of the Central Committee must cooperate on, and take direct part in, controlling and overseeing the publicities made by all propaganda apparatuses in conformity with both the spirit of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and the spirit of national reconciliation, seeing to it especially that they accord with the auspicious ambience generated by the samdech's royal decision to reside permanently in Cambodia.

All sectors and levels must thoroughly study and implement the instructions made by H.E. the chairman of the Council of Ministers in Phnom Penh on 8 November 1991. Among others, they must correctly implement the 23 October 1991 peace agreement and create all favorable conditions for the cooperation and alliance of forces with FUNCINPEC for the sake of peace and national reconciliation and for the enhancement of the truth concerning Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and our party.

For the immediate future, all provinces, municipalities, ministries, and institutions must do their best to make advance preparations to accord a welcome to, and provide absolute security for, all the royal visits to be made by the samdech to whatever places he wishes to go. They must also report to the samdech on the accessability of these places, or otherwise, in order to get his royal instructions.

Correctly implement the letter and spirit of the cease-fire that is in place; pay attention to consolidating the police forces and enhancing cooperation in order to make use of the combined forces of the masses of the people so as to maintain political stability and social order; pay attention to providing accommodation and protection for the members of the SNC and experts working in Phnom Penh.

Cooperate with all forces, both inside and outside the country, in order to oppose and prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime; refrain, however, from doing anything that might affect the implementation of the Paris agreement and the spirit of national reconciliation.

Strive to carry out well all of the socioeconomic undertakings; pay attention to the daily life of the general public; reduce and prevent to the maximum all negative social phenomena.

Make advance preparations for coping with the repatriation of the refugees by suitably and fully cooperating with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Protect the present ownership of the people and push for the issuance of administrative procedures on ownership.

To the best of one's ability, seek aid from all circles and distribute it fairly and directly to the people.

Strive to attract investment money and give assurances to all companies that have invested, or may invest, in our country that their contracts will be honored.

Cooperate with the United Nations in order to prevent violations, especially armed violations, of the agreement, and create favorable conditions for UN personnel, including military, police, and civilians, so that they can successfully carry out their mission.

Along with striving to fulfil the above immediate tasks, it is imperative to continue focusing on educating the people on the contents of the political platform of our party that was adopted during the extraordinary congress last October; for this is the political line that accords very well with the circumstances of the situation in the country and the global tendency of the world at present and that is winning wide support from all circles in the country and abroad.

The cadres must pay attention to doing research and study on new thinking and new analyses, and must intelligently adapt themselves to the rapidly developing new situation with the goal of serving the interests of the motherland and the ideals of the party, considering it all as a new criterion for cadres.

Therefore, all levels and sectors must closely examine and scrutinize all affairs in their respective offices according to the principles that have lately been enunciated.

All provincial and municipal party committees and all other party committees subordinate to the Central Committee must correctly implement the already defined procedure of presenting reports and requesting advice.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 20 November 1991
For the Standing Committee of the Central Committee
[Signed] Chairman Chea Sim

Sihanouk Calls Hun Sen 'Remarkable Leader'

*BK2111100291 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0850 GMT 21 Nov 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Nov.21—Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here today a newly elected government would probably be Prime Minister Hun Sen's government again.

Prince Sihanouk, who called Mr. Hun Sen his royal son, acknowledged that the Government of the State of Cambodia was bad, but the least bad and not the worst, as compared with the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique and the horrible regime of Pol Pot

Prince Sihanouk, who was elected the chairman of the Supreme National Council set up in Jakarta in September last year, returned to Phnom Penh on November 14 after 13 years living in exile.

He told a press conferecce held at the Royal Palace here this morning that the Cambodian People's Party led by Chairman Chea Sim and the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] led by his royal son Prince Ranariddh had already signed an agreement on their cooperation.

On the selection of eminent leaders and parties for the future government, Prince Sihanouk said the people give their judgment through the general election. However, he recognised Prime Minister Hun Sen as a remarkable leader.

Referring to a VOA report that there was some confusion in the SNC, the prince said he was the SNC chairman and recognized as the legal head of state of the whole Cambodia by all factions.

He noted that His Excellency Heng Samrin remains president of the Phnom Penh government's faction which is controlling more than 80 percent of Cambodia's terriory.

KPNLF's Son Sann, Ieng Mouli Arrive 21 Nov

BK2111053691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and Mr. Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the KPNLF executive committee and SNC member left Bangkok this morning for Phnom Penh in order to begin working within the framework of the SNC according to the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

The KPNLF, a noncommunist movement supported by liberal democratic countries, issued a press communique on Wednesday, 20 November, calling on all Cambodian parties to closely cooperate with the United Nations to fully implement the Paris accord. This communique also says the KPNLF will respect the Paris accord so as to ensure durable peace, national independence, territorial integrity, neutrality, and the progress of the Cambodian people within the framework of the SNC, which is the unique legitimate organ and source of power in Cambodia in the transitional period during which Cambodia should be sovereign, independent, and united.

On his trip to Phnom Penh today, His Excellency Son Sann is accompanied by his wife; Mr. Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the KPNLF executive committee and member of the SNC; Son Soubert, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of foreign affairs; General Chum Chheang, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of the Interior Ministry; Gen. Sangva De Lopez, adviser to the KPNLF president on security; Pol Ham, delegate of the KPNLF executive committee in charge of the Information Ministry; and four assistants of the SNC members.

Son Sann Makes Arrival Statement

OW2111050791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0448 GMT 21 Nov 91

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov. 21 KYODO—Former Cambodian nationalist premier Son Sann arrived in Phnom Penh on Thursday to join other rebel group leaders in a national reconciliation body aimed at restoring peace in the war-ravaged country.

"We are deeply moved to be back, after so many years, in Phnom Penh," said Son Sann, who returned to the Cambodian capital for the first time since May 1974.

But he "cannot be totally happy" when there are still many political prisoners in jail without trial, he said in an arrival statement.

"I am coming back here with specific objectives in mind—to continue to work for the peace and prosperity of the Cambodian people."

Son Sann, 80, was accompanied by his top aide, Ieng Mouli, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), and nine other members of the noncommunist faction.

The two are members of the 12-man Supreme National Council (SNC), an interim body representing Cambodian sovereignty until free elections are held under a United Nations-brokered peace plan signed in Paris this month.

Son Sann told reporters he understands the recently announced alliance between SNC head Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh government because he is a democrat and his party supports democracy.

"But we would like ... every party to understand that national reconciliation is absolutely necessary for the peace of Cambodia," he added.

He endorsed Wednesday's declaration by the Phnom Penh government and ruling party that restored Sihanouk, a former Cambodian monarch, as head of state.

"He is still the chief of the SNC and, as such, he is the chief of all Cambodia, of four Cambodian parties," Son Sann said.

Another noncommunist rebel group, led by Sihanouk's son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and the communist Khmer Rouge are also represented on the SNC, together with Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan is the only SNC member who has yet to arrive but informed sources said he may come Friday.

The SNC, which has met several times outside Phnom Penh, is to open its headquarters in the capital next week.

Article Examines Need for Sihanouk's Role

BK1511031791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Nov 91 p A10

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] A veteran diplomat in Phnom Penh has this apt observation: "No one trusts Prince Norodom Sihanouk, but everybody needs him."

With Sihanouk's return to Cambodia yesterday, the 69-year-old prince has become the centre of gravity for the country. It also has revived his political role in the land he once ruled. The country's stability would depend largely on the prince's brinkmanship in relations to the two Phnom Penh leaders—President Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Chea Sim and Hun Sen had already given strong support for the prince's return. Hun Sen had even urged the prince to be the country's president. Both Phnom Penh leaders want to be seen by the public as the persons who brought Sihanouk—the symbol of peace—home. Together with Sihanouk, they can increase their stature in the eyes of the commoners and with the international community.

Having said that, the balance of triangular relations between these three leaders is a prerequisite for a stable Cambodia as the country prepares for the general election. All three players know their peripheries well, they will be extremely careful not to over step others.

When Sihanouk ruled Cambodia back in the 50's and 60's, he was known for his political brinkmanship and manipulations. In the domestic domain, the prince spared no mercy for those who opposed him. Internationally, Sihanouk was also well-known for his high profile diplomatic finesse. His method of handling the communists and non-communists, many critics believed, had laid the groundwork for the victory of the communist movement in the mid-1970's.

For Cambodia in the 1990's, Sihanouk's versatility is still important for two reasons: firstly, to unify all the forces in Cambodia after over a decade of Vietnamese occupation, and secondly to usher the war-torn country into the changing region of Southeast Asia and the world community.

As a quasi monarch, generally speaking, Sihanouk will be above politics, but that does not mean he will be left out completely from the overall scheme of things in Cambodia. He will still wield power as the SNC chairman. To be effective, he must be able to build trust among the Cambodian leaders. In New York in September, after the four factions agreed to the UN peace plan, Sihanouk met with Hun Sen and promised to be "strictly neutral" once he was in Cambodia.

Sihanouk aside, both Chea Sim and Hun Sen realize that they, as the leaders of the Pracheachon Party, would also gain creditability if they cooperated with the prince.

Chea Sim, who retains his influence within the party and at the grass-roots level including the control over the country's security apparatus, will be closely identified with the prince's activities during his stay in Phnom Penh.

According to a Phnom Penh-based diplomat, who met with Chea Sim two weeks ago, Chea Sim has written a letter to Sihanouk pledging cooperation with him for the future of Cambodia.

Of late, Hun Sen's increased popularity has been due mainly to his working relationship with the prince, who learnt to trust the young premier. Their current rapport is important in maintaining peace in Cambodia. In fact, it was agreed that the five top Phnom Penh leaders would accompany Sihanouk wherever he goes. They are Chea Sim, Hun Sen, honorary President Heng Samrin, Interior Minister Sin Song, and Sar Kheng, a top politburo member.

As things stand, it is hard to predict whether the triangular alliance would last until the general election in 1993. Suffice it to say, Sihanouk will do whatever he can to accord even-handed treatment to the two Phnom Penh leaders.

Since Sihanouk is assuming more or less a ceremonial rule, the prince needs to have a cushion for his political activities. It is likely that his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, will serve that function.

Already, Hun Sen and Ranariddh have become acquaintances and learnt to accept each other's styles and roles. Hun Sen's new found rapport with Sihanouk has strengthened the young premier's ties with Ranariddh, according to a source close to the Sihanoukist group.

Apparently, Sihanouk's decision to endorse Ranariddh to lead the Sihanoukist group, which will be transformed into a political party, has created discontent among key personalities. Prince Norodom Chakrapong, also a son of Sihanouk, plans to establish a spin-off party. He was in Phnom Penh a few days ago to mobilize support for this party.

In the months ahead, Sihanouk will play a pivotal role in putting competing political forces inside Cambodia into focus and balance. If the prince has learned his past lessons well, he can succeed and will be remembered as the new saviour of his unfortunate nation.

Total Vietnamese Troop Withdrawal Urged

BK2011021491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Cambodian Nation and People Will Win and Survive—Come Hell or High Water"]

[Text] The Vietnamese have waged a war of aggression against Cambodia for nearly 13 years. The Cambodian nation and people have upheld great national union and fought the Vietnamese aggressors until victory was achieved. The four Cambodian parties and a number of friendly countries concerned both far and near have signed a peace accord to end the Vietnamese war of invasion in Cambodia.

The following are the vital points of the accord:

1. Establishment of a four-party Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk; and
2. The Vietnamese aggressors must withdraw all their aggressor forces from Cambodia under the joint control and supervision of the United Nations and the SNC.

According to the basic meaning of the accord, Cambodia should regain its independence and all the Cambodian parties should compromise and be reconciled without bickering, by joining forces within the SNC chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in order to implement the accord and effectively and correctly end the war, thereby bringing about peace and independence for the Cambodian people. And Cambodians should jointly promote great national union and strive to put into application the accord efficiently and correctly. This is not aimed at defeating any faction nor is it aimed at helping any faction to win, but it is for the victory of the Cambodian nation and people as a whole at the present time and in the future. The victory means that the Cambodian nation, people, and race will survive forever within an independent and peaceful Cambodia where the people are able to enjoy democratic freedom and rights.

Meeting Between Sihanouk, U.S.'s Twining Noted

BK2111034691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] After receiving credentials from U.S. diplomat Mr. Charles Twining, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk called on the United States not to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs. He asked the United States to devote attention to the restoration of Cambodia's economy.

The samdech's above-mentioned statement represents the request of the entire Cambodian nation and people. The samdech clearly realizes that:

1. With any foreign intervention, the implementation of the accord to end the Vietnamese war of invasion would be hindered;

2. With any foreign interference, the Cambodian nation and people would not be able to achieve national reconciliation and compromise and great national union within the framework of the Supreme National Council headed by himself; and

3. With any foreign intervention, peace could never be restored to Cambodia and foreigners would again certainly invade and wage a war in Cambodia as before.

The samdech and U.S. envoy Mr. Charles Twining unanimously agreed to improve living conditions in the countryside where the people are currently in the poorest situation.

The Cambodian people wish to welcome and applaud the move because the 13 years of the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia have caused the rural people in almost all villages and communes throughout the country to live in misery or to die of starvation. There is devastation everywhere due to the war.

Indonesia

Army Said Readying 'Major' Offensive in E. Timor

Dili Airport Reported Closed

LD2111004691 Lisbon RDP Comercial Radio Network in Portuguese 0000 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] We have just heard that Dili Airport in East Timor has been closed since 1200, Indonesian time, on Wednesday. This may be a sign that Indonesia is preparing a major military offensive in East Timor. The reasons reported for the airport closure are unclear and no official statement has been issued.

Resistance Warns of Army Action

LD2111113591 Lisbon RDP Internacional in Portuguese 1008 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Interview with Fretilin (Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor) delegate Ramos Horta by unidentified correspondent on 21 November "in Europe;" recorded]

[Text] Dili Airport is under heavy guard at the moment. This is worrying the Timorese resistance, as the Fretilin delegate in Europe confirmed:

[Ramos Horta] We believe that the closing up of East Timor has started. Passengers heading for East Timor are getting to Bali, but are not being allowed to travel on to Kupang, and passengers arriving directly in Kupang from Australia have not been allowed to continue on to East Timor. This has been happening for the last 24 hours. This means, therefore, that the so-called quote-unquote policy of openness has come to an end. Timor is once again closed, as it was from 1976 to 1987-88.

[Announcer] As for the possibilities of contacting Dili, Ramos Horta said:

[Ramos Horta] Yes, I was able to contact the resistance yesterday. They informed me about preparations for a major Indonesian offensive, with forces, helicopters, and armored cars, deployed in several areas of the country, with a view to crushing the resistance.

Sutrisno Says E. Timor Open for Red Cross Visit

BK2111105691 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1013 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) General Try Sutrisno said here Thursday that East Timor was open for a visit by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

So far the committee has never faced any difficulties to carry out its tasks to visit those injured in November 12 riot in Dili, the four-star general said before a number of mass media chief editors.

The riot in the provincial capital of East Timor early last week which claimed 19 lives and injured 91 broke out when the mob wildly and brutally attacked security officers.

The sympathetic and persuasive measures adopted by the officers came to no avail, they finally were forced to take stern measures in self-defense.

After all, the ICRC has carried out its task in the 27th province of Indonesia for some time, Sutrisno said.

On reports that a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee resolution calling on President Bush to set up a U.N.-supervised fact-finding team in East Timor, he said, East Timor issue is Indonesia's domestic affairs. We will categorically reject foreign interference in the issue.

Suharto Leaves for 25-Day Foreign Trip

BK1911071691 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] President Suharto, accompanied by a number of cabinet ministers, today left Jakarta at 1209 West Indonesian time for Honolulu, Hawaii to begin the first leg of a 25-day visit abroad.

During his trip abroad, the president will lead the Indonesian delegation at the upcoming high-level 15-nation South-South conference at Caracas, Venezuela and the high-level Islamic conference at Dakar, Senegal.

The president and delegation are expected to return to Indonesia on 14 December.

Philippines

Officials Awaiting U.S. Reply to Note on Bases

HK2011025791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 20 Nov 91 p 12

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus yesterday professed not to be bothered by the fact that the U.S. was undertaking talks with the Philippines' neighbors on access arrangements for its forces. This, despite the fact that Washington has failed to reply to the Philippine invitation for discussions on the proferred three-year withdrawal period.

"These developments, the fact that the U.S. is now talking to Malaysia and apparently, Indonesia, is something which I called for back in 1986—the regionalization of the political burden of the U.S. presence," Mr. Manglapus said.

DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] American Affairs Office chief Raul Rabe said U.S. officials told the Philippines that delay in replying to the Philippine note verbale asking for the withdrawal talks to commence had been occasioned by "the need for Washington to first clear up some sticking points." He declined to say what these were.

If no official response from the U.S. is forthcoming within "a reasonable period," a ranking government official said, "we will give then a note saying that they have one year to withdraw from Subic."

Mr Manglapus said he had been unable to take up bilateral issues with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation ministerial conference in Seoul recently.

UN SEC-GEN ISSUE

On his poor showing in United Nations' straw vote balloting for the UN Secretary-General position, the foreign secretary waxed philosophical: "It was an honor just to be nominated and to get some votes," he said, pointing out that he had "gotten as many as four votes at one time."

"This was not the first time that the Philippines has been in contention for that post...and lost," he observed. "The African effort was strong and concerted."

Aborigines Demand Return of Bases Lands

HK2111020591 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Malacanang hopes that the United States will respond to its diplomatic note before the end of this week. Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said that American officials have assured them that Washington is now studying the diplomatic note.

Negotiations for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Subic Naval Base revolve around three major issues. A member of the Philippine panel said that one of the issues involved in the negotiations is the equipment inventory stating what the Americans are supposed to bring with them and what they are supposed to leave behind.

Meanwhile, the Aetas have asked the government to eject the American troops from the military bases before the end of the year. The aborigines demanded that the military base land be returned, for apparently it is part of their ancestral lands. The Aetas are also pressing the government to declare Mt. Pinatubo and nearby areas as ancestral lands in order to avoid the possibility of this land falling into the hands of others. The aborigines also added that they now wished to return to the land where they used to live.

Senator Sees U.S. Interference in 1992 Elections

HK2111053791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada believes that the United States will play an important role in the coming 1992 presidential elections. Tanada said that although he lacks the proof, he still believes that the United States has started its efforts to intervene in the political situation of the country in order to ensure the victory of the candidate who favors retention of U.S. bases in the Philippines.

The senator pointed out incidents such as the return of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, the Terrell revelation, negotiations with Honasan, and the division of political parties as some indicators of this fact.

Manglapus Views Middle East Peace Conference

HK2111060291 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Nov 91 p 22

[Romy V. Mapile]

[Text] The Philippine government has maintained its support for the Palestine cause in the recently concluded Middle East talks held in Madrid, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus.

"The Philippines stands four-square behind the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people and the rights of all states in the region to secure borders, national sovereignty and political independence," Manglapus said.

He said the Middle East talks, with initiatives from U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, tried to find common ground settlement of a long-standing dispute that has spawned three great wars and destructive confrontations.

"In a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings, Arab, Israeli and Palestinian leaders negotiated for the first time since the Palestinian partition in 1948," Manglapus said.

"As we congratulate those who labored long and hard to bring about this conference, we hope that the meetings will lead to the end of anguish of a troubled land and that in accordance with pertinent United Nations resolutions, lands that are now under occupation will be given up in favor of lasting and just peace in the region," he said.

In a related development, the Embassy of Israel in Manila stated that, "its government is committed to continue with the process, to hold the continuation of bilateral talks, to bring down the walls of hatred and create a natural good athmosphere for discussion on the issue."

The statement continued: "This breakthrough in Madrid is just the beginning of a long and difficult process, Israel truly hopes that the end of the procese will bring true peace with its neighbors. This will open a door for a new era of cooperation and prosperity to all the people in the region."

Rebel Air Force General Zumel Said Missing

HK2111132691 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Former Air Force Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel is reportedly missing after the emissaries of General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, failed to locate him for a scheduled last meeting before the 23 November deadline. Here is Rodney Jaleco of DZRH Unit 1 with the details:

[Begin recording] Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel is said to be missing after emissaries failed to meet him for the last meeting before the 23 November deadline. Abadia says he does not know where Zumel is now. Abadia was hoping he could convince Zumel to return to military control so his peace initiative may have a good result. According to reports, Zumel was reportedly ready to surrender after the government conceded to his basic demands, but the negotiations bogged down at the last minute. Zumel is believed to be suffering from an illness which needs constant hospitalization and cannot leave Metro Manila. Abadia admitted that there are last- ditch efforts to convince the 11 rebel soldiers to return to military control before Saturday [23 November]. However, when asked about these, Abadia said these are top secret matters and that he is not prepared to divulge these at this stage. [end recording]

Abadia Dismisses Honasan's New Coup Threat

HK2011104991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0915 GMT 20 Nov 91

[By Rodney Jaleco, DZRH Unit 1]

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said he met this morning with rebel emissary Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Kapunan to arrange a possible meeting with Honasan before the deadline expires 23 November. Abadia stressed they will not have any difficulty pursuing the 11 rebel soldiers who have not yet returned to military control. Abadia added they are prepared to capture Honasan within the last six months of the Aquino administration. Abadia said the six months he gave to search for a peaceful solution to the problems on the ultrarightist rebellion are more than enough. Abadia belittled Honasan's threat to launch another coup. According to Abadia, he personally told Honasan and

Commodore Domingo Calajate that the government will be giving a deadline. Abadia added that he relayed to Honasan's emissaries the 23 November deadline before he left for Hawaii last week.

'Manhunt' for Rebel Soldiers To Start 24 Nov

HK2111094891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, said the initiative for the peace talks has attained partial success. A widespread manhunt for the 11 rebel soldiers including renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan will start after the 23 November deadline expires. Here is Rodney Jaleco with the details:

[Begin recording] AFP Chief General Lisandro Abadia said today that the peace initiative has attained a partial success after 18 rebel leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-SFP-YOU] returned to military control. Abadia said that even though he lost hope that former Lieutenant Colonel Honasan would surrender, the government has gained a moral ascendancy against the rightist rebels. Abadia reiterated that the government will not extend the 23 November deadline to finish the peace initiative. Abadia added that the offensive will start against the remaining 11 RAM-SFP-YOU leaders on the first hour of 24 November. Abadia appealed to Honasan and other rebel leaders to end this foolishness so the country can rise up and attain unity in the armed forces. Abadia warned Honasan that he cannot do anything but look for him and arrest him because he is a symbol of the faction in the military that allows itself to be used in politics. Abadia stressed that the rebel soldiers no longer have the capability to launch another coup attempt. Abadia added that Honasan has promised that the rebels will not use any terrorist activitities including bombing, even after the peace initiative has ended. [end recording]

Rebel Soldiers' Spokesman Warns of 'Revolution'

HK2011130791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0957 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina, spokesman for the detained leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union, confirmed that Colonel Gringo Honasan will not surrender even if the government gives him an ultimatum. In an interview with this reporter inside his cell in Camp Aguinaldo, General Abenina said the word surrender is not in their vocabulary and that they only want to have a good discussion regarding the eight points they presented to the government. Abenina explained that their group wants to have genuine reforms in the government and the eradication of graft and corruption but that the government has not responded to these demands. He also said that they will seek electoral reforms because, if the election laws are not changed and cheating prevails in the 1992 election, they may launch a revolution, not a coup d'etat, which could possibly be initiated by the citizenry. According to Abenina, the Armed Forces of the Philippines may participate and even Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadia may join the next uprising if cheating is rampant in the coming elections.

[Begin Abenina recording] If next year's elections turn out to be unconscionable in that they do not represent the people's wishes, the uprising will not even be initiated by the RAM but the people themselves. It will be stronger than the 1986 revolution. In 1986, there was not even a million people who participated in the revolution but this one will have over 60 million people. No force can stop the people from rising up. General Abadia himself said that if next year's election result is unreasonable, the armed forces may even take over and run the government. General Abadia has a point because our Constitution states that the armed forces is responsible for the protection of the citizenry. [end recording]

Rebel Returnees Said Cooperating With Military

HK1911111991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The rebel soldiers who have returned to the government like Red Kapunan are now cooperating with the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP]. This was learned today from AFP spokesman Colonel Jaime de los Santos. Here is the full report by Josette Olivera:

[Begin recording] De los Santos said the rebel soldiers have been showing good conduct since they returned to government control. Before being returned to military custody, the rightist members signed a memorandum of undertaking which outlined limitations to their freedom. However, they are no longer considered military fugitives. It was learned that the rebel soldiers have not committed any violations from the time they returned to military control. Instead, they even served as emissaries to convince their comrades like Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan to return to the government. [end recording]

Abadia Denies Holding Talks With Communists

HK1911112091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, said there are no military officials that are currently talking to any leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA-NDF]. Here is Rodney Jaleco, DZRH Unit 1 with the details.

[Begin Jaleco recording] Armed Forces chief General Lisandro Abadia said there are no military officials who are currently talking with the leaders of the CPP-NPA-NDF. Abadia said the dialogue with rebel leaders is limited to NPA commanders in Laguna and Quezon where an ongoing cease-fire is being observed under the government peace initiative for the CPP-NPA-NDF. According to Abadia, the military does not have any objection to recognizing the CPP-NPA if they will pledge to abandon the use of force in achieving their political objectives and if they will follow the Philippine Constitution. Some AFP officials believed that the NPA has launched a new offensive in order to stop the regional peace initiatives after a dispute between local NPA commanders and their national leader occurred. Abadia said the NPA will definitely try to meddle in the coming national elections and will also support some progressive candidates. Abadia said the military is prepared for any action that will be made by the communists. He also said the coming election will be orderly and peaceful. [end recording]

Government Stance on Muslim Secessionism Viewed

HK1911034291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 19 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "That MNLF Problem"]

[Text] Evidently, the President's well-known aversion for unsolicited advice does not afflict our diplomats. For how else can we explain their timid response to the "suggestion" made by a four- man delegation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) that new peace talks between Muslim secessionists and the government be held before the end of the year in Jeddah, Saudi Arbia.

Any self-respecting, confident and sovereign nation would have politely told the visiting dignitaries there is no need for such talks or time to prepare for them. But instead, a DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] bureaucrat tentatively agreed to take part in the meeting and then limply explained that the Philippine government had done all it could under the 1987 Constitution to resolve the decades-old conflict.

Any bureaucrat worth his per diem would know that no conference can be put together with any chance of success in the time left before the end of 1991, especially now that national attention is focused on next year's elections.

So why is this government again humoring the OIC? The answer probably lies somewhere between its perennially distracted frame of mind, due among others to the heat of impending political battle, and the dilettante character of its approach to the Mindanao conflict. One thing alone is clear: Government's spineless response to this latest instance of meddling will bring another spiral of recriminations and saber-rattling from self-appointed defenders of Bangsa Moro interests.

It is important to take stock of the basic realities that are involved in the so-called Mindanao problem today. The first is that there is no way the 1976 Tripoli agreement can be implemented to the letter, particularly with regard to the provinces that are to be brought into an autonomous "Muslim" region. A plebiscite held in 1989 in nine provinces ended with only four predominantly Muslim provinces opting for inclusion in the autonomous region. Given a democratic choice, therefore, only a few provinces listed under the Tripoli agreement are willing to be part of the autonomous region.

The second reality is that not enough has been done to provide Muslims and Muslim areas (the same with highlanders) the kind of advantages that are considered a matter of course in Christian areas. One merely has to travel from Cotabato City to General Santos to see the glaring difference between lands tilled by Muslim and those by Christian farm families.

The disparity is not solely a matter of budget allocation but also of discrimination that considers Muslims and highlanders less deserving of quality services and opportunities. Although more people are conscious now of this unjust order, not enough has been done to rectify it as speedily as the more thoughtful Muslim leaders would want it.

Unless a more consistent and pervasive effort than is presently being undertaken is made, secessionism will continue to attract some following in Mindanao.

Anti-Insurgency Campaign Displaces 2000 in Davao

HK2111074891 Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 13 Nov 91 pp 1, 12

[By Bert Renejane]

[Text] Paquibato District, Davao City—At least three hundred families composed of some 2,000 individuals have evacuated their homes at the hinterlands of this district, when combined forces of the Phil. Army and the Phil. Marines launched furious military operations since Monday marked by sporadic bombings and continuous armed assaults against communist insurgents.

The Davao City regional office of the Dept. of Social Welfare and Devt. (DSWD) reported yesterday that about P [Philippine pesos] 14,000.00 had already been spent to feed evacuees presently staying at makeshifts a few kilometers away from the virtual warzone covering barangays Paradise Embac and Fatima.

Social welfare workers Malou Bermudo said that the military men took from them the distribution of foodstuffs for the evacuees in order to make sure that foods would not reach the guerrillas.

Bermudo expressed her worry that several children at evacuation centers are not being properly fed that could cause diseases leading to deaths.

Military sources disclosed that operations were launched at Paradise Embac and Fatima, two remote barangays in this district, following reports that the communist movement is already in full control of the area. A rebel training camp was said to be already in place in the area for several months now.

Reports also indicated that communists have already recruited hundreds of residents to the armed movement including personnel of the Civilian Volunteers Organization, a civilian group against insurgents formed by the government.

Last Monday morning, elements of the Army's 75th Infantry Battalion under the command of Maj. Franklin Estrada, backed up by a contingent of Phil. Marines, reportedly fired mortar bombs at various points of the barangays to signal the operations.

Reports on injuries and fatalities could not be secured at the area had been cordoned by the government troopers while no report was available from the military until yesterday.

By Monday afternoon, when the attack against the insurgents was at its peak, some residents started to leave their respective houses. Young and old women carrying infants—crying, screaming and running—were reportedly a common sight during the evening.

Some residents at the evacuation centers revealed that government troopers were assaulting practically all males suspiciously escaping from the area. The military, the residents claimed, had insisted that even 10-year old boys have already joined the rebel movement.

It was also said that isolated bombings and assaults were still unleashed by the government troopers from Tuesday until yesterday. The warzone is reportedly still cordoned until prestime.

Some evacuees likewise expressed their worries yesterday on possible looting of their properties left at their houses.

Ramos, Fernan Agree To Form 1992 Ticket

HK2011041491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 6

[By Juliet M. Labog]

[Text] Former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos and Supreme Court Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan have forged an agreement to team up in a Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino [Struggle of the Filipino Democrats (LDP)] ticket for the 1992 polls, a congressman said yesterday.

Rep. Antonio Aquino (LDP, Quezon City) said Ramos and Fernan expressed openness for either a Fernan-Ramos or a Ramos-Fernan tandem. The two met for over an hour at an undisclosed venue Monday night.

Aquino, one of the proponents of a Fernan draft, said the two did not decide who will run for president or vice president. They just agreed to launch a combined ticket, he said.

Aquino said supporters of Fernan met again with members of the Ramos camp to press for a Fernan-Ramos ticket.

After the Monday meeting, Fernan said he was pursuing his plan to quit the high court and join the LDP if he is assured of a chance to run, Aquino revealed.

"He is willing to take a reasonable risk, to resign from the Supreme Court provided he be given the chance to participate and run under the party," Aquino said.

Ramos and Speaker Ramon V. Mitra are contending for the LDP's presidential nomination at the party convention on Nov. 30. The LDP group in Quezon City is pushing for Fernan's candidacy.

The group includes Aquino, Quezon City Mayor Brigido Simon Jr., Vice Mayor Vicente Sotto III, and Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan. LDP Secretary General Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco is reportedly behind the move.

An INQUIRER source in the Ramos camp said the President had asked Fernan to talk with Ramos about the possibility of their team up.

Aquino said Ramos and Fernan will meet again to finalize the ticket, but he did not say when.

Aquino said Representatives Renato Yap and Jose Yap, Pagdanganan and Pampanga Gov. Bren Guiao will meet with Ramos' political leaders Rep. Jose de Venecia and Rep. Isidro Real Jr.

Meanwhile, a source close to Simon said that if Fernan does not get the draft to be the presidential candidate, Cojuangco and Simon will realign their forces with Ramos.

The source said Simon's League of City Mayors and the powerful bloc of Cojuangco will fully support a Ramos-Fernan tandem.

The source said Cojuangco and Simon were "consolidating" their forces in Mindanao for the emerging Fernan-Ramos or Ramos-Fernan ticket.

Simon left for Cotabato yesterday with Ramos' key political leaders and Cojuangco's wife Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco. They are expected to also go to Zamboanga, Negros and Cebu.

In other development:

—Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has ruled out an alliance with businessman Eduardo Cojuangco to isolate Vice President Salvador H. Laurel. He said he would still push for the reunification of the three rival factions of the Nacionalista Party [NP].

—As this developed, the NP-Laurel wing asked the Commission on Elections to declare as null and void the two separate national directorate meetings called by Enrile and Cojuangco last week. They aslo asked the poll body to stop the two other factions from using the NP emblem, seal, logo and slogan and publicly claiming they are duly elected officials of the party.

—In a speech before the Manila Jaycees yesterday, Enrile vowed to continue supporting the NP's bid to win in the national elections despite his withdrawal from contention for the party's presidential nomination.

—Pasig Mayor Mario Raymundo (LDP) yesterday expressed his belief that Ramos will be the next president of the country.

He said that all 28 LDP delegates from Pasig will support Ramos' bid for the party's presidential nomination at the Nov. 30 convention.

Thailand

Prime Minister Seeks Limit to Number of Senators

BK2111020191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p A3

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said yesterday the number of senators should not exceed half the total number of MPs.

Continuing his cautious criticism of the controversial draft constitution, Anan said it was not democratically sensible to give equal power to both non-elected senators and elected MPs.

After a last-minute amendment, the draft fixed the maximum number of senators at 270. It previously stipulated that the Senate comprise up to 360 members, the same as the House of Representatives.

"The number of senators should not be more than half the number of MPs, or 180 at most," Anan said. "That non-elected people should neither outnumber nor have more power than those who are elected is a basic principle of political science."

During the past few days the military-appointed caretaker prime minister has sided with growing public opposition to the armed forces' political role. On Saturday he criticized several points in the constitution draft, which is widely believed to have been designed to guarantee military domination of politics.

The military-established interim National Legislative Assembly on Monday endorsed a much-criticized clause of the draft that makes the Senate speaker serve concurrently as Parliament president.

Asked to comment on the assembly's decison Anan said: "I'm blind." He did not elaborate.

Anan had been publicly criticized for not taking a tougher stand against the controversial charter draft. Responding to the criticism, he said that as a caretaker prime minister he must "play by the rules of the game."

The caretaker government has also come under fire after restrictions were imposed on TV political reports.

Permanent Secretary of the PM's Office, Aphilat Osathanon, had ordered TV Channels 3 and 9 to avoid presenting reports critical of the government and the military. Aphilat said on Monday that he made the move in his capacity as chairman of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand (MCOT)'s board of directors.

Aphilat said many National Peacekeeping Council and government officials had asked him why the two MCOT-run television stations had broadcast reports that offended the military and government.

Anan tried to distance himself from the issue, saying while he himself was not sensitive to either criticism or praise "some people may be."

He yesterday reiterated his support for freedom of expression.

"I don't know anything about the TV ban. You should ask the administrators of the TV stations," he told reporters.

"I've never done anything that could limit people's basic rights. I have never done and will never do so in my life." he added.

The prime minister called on the public to "trust" his caretaker administration.

Bangkok Governor Chamlong Simuang, during the mass rally against the draft charter at Sanam Luang on Monday, strongly defied the armed forces, prompting speculation that he might be ousted from his official position.

Asked if the Cabinet would remove Chamlong, leader of the Phalang Tham Party, Anan said: "Please trust and be fair to this government".

Assembly Agrees To Ban on Corrupt Politicians

BK2111015991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p A1, A2

[Text] In a highly controversial move, the National Legislative Assembly yesterday agreed to impose a lifelong electoral ban on corrupt politicians, but conspicuously left loopholes that would allow the 13 political leaders being investigated for alleged corruption to contest future polls.

On the second day of deliberation of the revised draft constitution, the assembly revived for debate a much-disputed clause prescribing the electoral ban on politicians "whose assets are seized by the state after being ruled ill-gotten by the court or under legitimate legal procedures."

The clause had been doubtfully dropped from the draft charter after the Chat Thai Party, whose seven members are among the 13 politicians under investigation, elected a pro-military man, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong, as its new leader.

The dropping of the clause was widely regarded a part of a deal between the military and Chat Thai, which was the core of the previous coalition toppled in the February coup but has attempted to mend its ties with the armed forces.

Several assembly members yesterday strongly questioned why the ad hoc committee that reviewed the draft dropped the crucial clause, while deciding to maintain the ban on government officials who have been fired from their posts because of corruption.

The ad hoc panel had defended its decision, saying voters should decide by themselves whether to re-elect politicians with bad backgrounds.

"Why do those civil sevants deserve the punishment while those (convicted by the court of) plundering our country don't?" said assembly member Sasima Siwikon yesterday.

"I don't understand why corrupt politicians should be given another chance to come back and do all the bad things that they have done," she added.

Charas Suwanwela, Chulalongkon University rector, noted that the military cited "unprecedented corruption" when it ousted the previous government in the coup.

"After the coup, we hoped to have a better constitution," he said. "But now I'm not so sure. And this particular issue will be a decisive factor."

The ad hoc committee's chairman, Osot Kosin, replied that putting such a clause in the constitution would affect Thailand's international image.

"We the committee are afraid that other countries would wonder why we have to put it in the charter," Osot said emotionally. "That's all I will say and I won't answer more questions."

Thamnun Latphli, responding swiftly to Osot's statement, said the image-conscious argument was just a pretext.

"Please tell us the truth," he asked Osot.

Labour leader Ekkachai Ekhankamon joined the criticism, saying it was not sensible to ban civil servants, fired by their agencies for corruption, from elections while politicians convicted by the courts of the same offence could still play politics.

"The civil servants are not even convicted by the court," he said.

Asa Meksawan, vice president of the assembly, ordered an unusual 10-minute break in the midst of the debate. During the interval, he was seen seriously discussing the issue with several people including Interior Minister and Secretary General of the National Peacekeeping Council Itsaraphong Nunphakdi and Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan.

Assembly President Ukkrit Mongkhon retook the chairman's seat when the session resumed and announced the ad hoc committee had agreed to make some concessions.

Osot, obviously trying to maintain composure, told the assembly the ad hoc panel had agreed to revive the controversial clause but delete the part that stated "or under legitimate legal procedures."

The deleted part had been intended to legitimize the power of the military-appointed Assets Examination Committee which is authorized to confiscate the assets of the 13 politicians.

Under a recent legal amendment, any politician whose assets are ordered seized by the Assets Examination Committee can appeal against the ruling in court.

After Osot's announcement, Thamnun immediately noted that the 13 politicians could still run in elections even if they were ruled corrupt by the assets committee.

"They may let the assets committee seize their assets without appealing in court. And since their cases end there, not in court, they are still eligible for elections," Thamnun said.

As his remark threatened to trigger a new round of heated debate, Ukkrit cut short the process, endorsing the dubiously revised clause without calling a voting.

Assembly To Retain Existing Electoral System

BK2111015591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p A3

[Excerpt] The National Assembly yesterday overwhelmingly voted to retain the existing electoral system under which voters in each constituency review committee.

Only five assemblymen voted in favour of a proposed party-slate system with three MPs for each constituency. This three MPs for each constituency. This proposal was put forward yesterday as a compromise.

The decision is likely to dash the hope of the pro-military Samakkhi Tham Party to take advantage of the party-slate system to gain a sizeable number of seats in the House of Representatives in the general election.

Earlier, the review committee dumped the old electoral system as proposed by the constitution-drafting committee in favour of the party-slate system with between four and seven MPs for each constituency. But it changed back to the the old system last week in the face of public pressure.

After about one hour of debate on the issue, the assembly voted to uphold the review committee's proposed electoral system under Article 116 of the draft constitution.

During the debate, the five assemblymen who proposed the last-minute change to the party-slate system, with three MPs for each constituency, tried unsuccessfully to convinced the assembly that their proposal would help strengthen political parties and stabilize the political system.

Lt Gen Pricha Rotchanasen, an assemblyman representing the army, kicked off the debate, saying the party-slate system would help discourage vote buying and create fewer but stronger political parties.

"Vote-buying would become redundant because voters would base their judgement on the credibility of political parties rather than individual candidates," he said.

Assemblyman Phinit Chantharasurin, a core member of the Samakkhi Tham Party, said the party-slate system would create more powerful political parties which would be able to form a stable government and implement policies under their parties' platforms.

"The old electoral system, under which voters pick individual candidates, has invariably resulted in too many small parties which were too weak to push for the implementation of their parties' policies," Phinit said.

Under the original party-slate proposal, voters' would be restricted to choosing a team of candidates belonging to only one particular party in a constituency with between four and seven MPs.

Assemblyman Phaibun Changrian said although he agreed with the argument that the party-slate system would strengthen political parties, he said disadvantages of the system outweighed its advantages.

"Voters would not be able to vote for individuals of their linking and political parties would be compelled to use more money to win elections under the party-slate system because of higher stake involved," Phaibun said. [passage omitted]

Decision Undermines Samakkhi Tham Party

BK2111015191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p A1, A2

[Text] The military-appointed National Assembly dealt a political blow to the Samakkhi Tham Party yesterday when it endorsed the electoral system that allows a voter to elect three candidates from different parties.

The 87 former northeastern MPs who form the largest group in the pro-air force party have had their political futures turned around by the sudden revival of the old system of voting. At least half are expected to return to their old parties as they had agreed to join Samakkhi Tham on condition that the party-slate system would be adopted.

"I am sure that they will be split because some joined us on the condition that the party-slate system would be adopted. I am checking to see who is staying and who will leave," said Samakkhi Tham deputy leader Phinit Chantharasurin, former MP for Lampang, who has been a key figure in lobbying for defections to the new party.

A group of about 10 former southern Muslim MPs, led by Den Tomina, who had been wavering between Samakkhi Tham and former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's New Aspiration Party (NAP), yesterday decided to stay with NAP.

Wirawon Sitthitham, also a Samakkhi Tham Party deputy leader and a former deputy secretary of the Chat Thai Party, said the latest political twist caught many northeastern members off-guard.

"We are frightened and bewildered because we never expected such a drastic change," said Wirawon, a former Nakhon Phanom MP.

Wirawon, who is responsible for coordinating the party's northeastern candidates, said the northeasterners would meet in the next few days to grill party secretary general Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thiti Nakonthap and decide whether to stay.

"I, myself, am not sure whether I will stay on. But we agreed, among the six of us who have formed a team to run in Nakhon Phanom, that we would stay in the same boat, whether we stay or go," he said.

Wirawon said politicians in the northeastern faction had hidden their frustration with the recent election of the party's executive committee, to which very few northeasterners won seats.

Wirawon said many former Chat Thai MPs would probably return to Chat Thai because party secretary general Banhan Silapa-acha had approached them, asking them to return.

He said the latest political twist resulted from "mutual suspicions" among leaders of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC).

"He (Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun) does not trust Samakkhi Tham," which is said to be Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rojananin's political broker.

With the withdrawal of Suchinda and Kaset in the race, incumbent Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun seemed set to continue as prime minister after the polls, Wirawon predicted.

Chawalit, he predicted, would become the opposition "for reasons which are already known".

"They do not belong to the same military grouping," he added.

Seksan Saenphumi, a former Surin MP, also told THE NATION he expected at least half of the northeastern former MPs to desert Samakkhi Tham and return to their old parties.

But Seksan, who is leading the party's team of candidates for Surin, said he could not afford to return to the Ratsadon Party because of his previous personal conflict with former leader Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan.

Several other northeastern candidates also told THE NATION they would return to their old parties. They included Punsawat Hotrawaisaya, a former Chat Thai MP from Ubon Ratchathani, Wichai Iiamwong, who is a former Democrat MP for Udon Thani, and former Chat Thai MP Sawat Supsaiprom.

They said they would stay with Samakkhi Tham only on the condition that the party-slate system would be adopted.

The Samakkhi Tham Party had hoped to make sweeping gains in the Northeast and the North in the upcoming election, betting on the party-slate system in which strong team leaders were expected to drag their weaker teammates into the House.

Suchinda Dismisses Speculation on Dumping Draft

BK2011023391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday dismissed speculation an attempt might be made to derail the draft Constitution before it passes its third reading.

"How can any attempt be made to topple the draft? It will only further delay the election," Gen Suchinda said.

The supreme commander, who is also vice-chairman of the National Peace-keeping Council, [NPKC] denied members of the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] have been heavily lobbied to approve the draft as it is.

He defended the draft against criticism that it is undemocratic.

"How can we know that the draft is undemocratic when it has not yet been approved by the NLA."

He said he had already made it clear on Monday that the NPKC has no involvement whatsoever with the drafting process of the Constitution.

Gen Suchinda attended the Assembly meeting yesterday morning but was unable to attend in the afternoon because he had to lay a foundation stone for the "Khraprayun Pavilion" and to preside over a religious ceremony at a temple in Muang District, Nong Khai.

He later led a group of senior military officers including Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunpakdi, in a football match against a team of local businessmen.

Several senior Samakkhi Tham Party members, including secretary-general Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thitti Nakhonthap, joined local residents in welcoming the general to the province.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, asked to say whether it is possible for the draft to be derailed before the third reading, so the Government and the NPKC might be able to choose a previous constitution for promulgation, said: "I don't answer hypothetical questions."

Bangkok Governor Opposes Draft Constitution

BK1911022791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Phalang Tham Party [PTP] leader Chamlong Simuang, returning from a visit to the Soviet Union yesterday, declared an all-out war on the controversial draft Constitution, particularly against the items cited in the provisonal clause.

Maj-Gen Chamlong said he will "fight with full force" by joining the people to oppose the draft charter.

"No matter what may happen to me, my party or my people, I'll fight till the end. We don't want ot see bad and violent things happen in our country later, that's why we have to fight now," the PTP leader said.

The Bangkok governor said he will join a public rally organised by political parties at Sanam Luang this evening to denounce the Constitution. The PTP, he said, has already collected some 26,000 signatures of people who do not agree with the provisions in the charter for submitting to the Natinal Legislative Assembly on Friday.

The draft Constitution should not have been made even worse than it already is, he said.

One point in the provisional clause—which states that the number of senators will be equal to the number of popularly elected MPs—drew scathing remarks from the popular PTP leader.

The governor said this will give senators too much power. In that case, why shouldn't all of them be elected just as MPs? he asked.

Maj-Gen Chamlong contended that the number of senators should not be that many but one-third or one-half or, at worst, three-fourths of the number of MPs.

He also rasied concern about the prospect of civil servants concurrently holding political posts, as envisaged in the draft charter.

Port Offers Importers Space for Bonded Warehouse

BK1911043591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Nov 91 p 28

[Text] The Port Authority of Thailand [PAT] has offered space for cigarette importers to set up their own bonded warehouses at Laem Chabang Commercial Port.

An informed source in the Commerce Ministry said yesterday that the PAT's offer was aimed at resolving a cigarette trade dispute with the United States.

Although Thailand has agreed to open the market for cigarette imports last year, some issues need further consultation, especially permission to set up public warehouses, he said.

The matter was raised by US Trade Representative Carla Hills last week in Seoul during informal talks on resolving Thai-US trade issues.

The source said that according to Ambassador Hills, importers of American cigarettes complain that they face obstacles because the Government has not provided suitable bonded warehouses through the PAT.

Only one public bonded warehouse, of 100 square metres, is now available at Bangkok Port for cigarette storage. It is open to all importers on a first-come, first-served basis which is unsuitable.

The source said the Government had rejected the importers' request for warehouses space because it would be against a Customs regulation which does not allow importers to set up their own bonded warehouses outside the PAT area.

However, to resolve the problem the PAT decided to provide an area at the deep-sea port on a rental basis for importers to establish their own warehouses.

The Customs Department is prepared to ease its regulation when importers submit details of their proposals, according to the source.

He said the Finance Ministry disagreed with a US request for excise stamps to be printed on packets at the point of production and the amount paid when the cigarettes entered Thailand. The ministry believed this would create difficulty in preventing smuggled cigarettes.

The Thai Government still insisted on maintaining its tariff rates because they conformed with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and applied across the board.

"The Government decided to apply tariffs and excise tax on cigarettes at high rates because Thailand is aware of the dangers of smoking," he said.

Proper Investigation of E. Timor Shootings Urged

BK1811042191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Action Needed To Safeguard Timor"]

[Text] Indonesia has taken a proper first step by abandoning early attempts to cover up a massacre of civilians by its troops in East Timor last week. Early attempts to try to gloss over the shooting of members of a crowd in Dili were greeted with outrage around the world. Compounding this anger were indications that government and army leaders in Jakarta were going to try to sweep the incident under the carpet. Luckily for Indonesia, more astute members of the administration were able to gauge the damage of an attempted whitewash. Foreign Ministr Ali Alatas and Army commander Gen Try Sutrisno both have promised a full investigation of the shootings. They must be held to their word.

The events leading up to the killing of between 19 and 180 persons by the Indonesian army in Dili are well known. Since forcibly annexing East Timor in 1976 after Portugal granted independence to the area, Jakarta often has been accused of killings and human rights abuses. There is smore than a little evidence that the army has been largely unconcerned with such principles as human rights in its successful decimation of Fretelin, the East Timorese Marxist opposiion group. The killings at Dili last Tuesday, however, obviously go far beyond even the broadest possible definition of armed combat.

There was definitely tension in the Dili air last Tuesday,. A large crowd gathered to attend the funeral of a Timorese killed in a gang fight between groups supporting, and opposed to, Indonesian rule of the area. Investigators will have to sort out eyewitness reports from this point. Some of those who were there claim that someone in the crowd shot a pistol, and another spoke of someone in the crowd tossing an unarmed hand grenade at troops watching the marchers.

Even if either of these events occurred, there seems to reports over the past few days to have been no event which could justify what can only be termed a massacre. Foreign newsmen and East Timor Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao agree that the troops did not panic. Instead, they coolly fired into the crowd, killing and wounding scores of people. Two American newsmen were beaten by troops during the shooting. This is certainly an indication the attack was planned. A New Zealand aid worker was killed, and an Australian colleague was wounded, a further sign that the shooting was indiscriminate.

Mr Alatas, who is a low-key contender for the position of UN Secretary-General, at first was less than forthcoming on the shootings. "The security forces had to take action," he said, although no such evidence appeared to exist. His quick turn-around to back an intensive investigation came only after Jakarta ordered Gen Sutrisno to get to the bottom of the killings. Governor Viegas and

East Timor Roman Catholic Bishop Ximenes Carlos Belo were far faster off the mark in condemning the army and demanding an open inquiry. The current UN secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar deplored the deaths, and joined countries like the United States, Japan, Britain and Australia in the call for a full investigation.

Indonesia's own interest will be served by abandoning its 15-year attempt to cover up events in East Timor. The army has stood accused of unwarranted violence and atrocities in the annexed province from the first day it entered Dili. Any thoughtful probe of last week's extraordinary use of armed force against civilians must also consider the hundreds of separate claims of downright abuse of many Timorese. Jakarta is probably unwilling under any circumstances to yield to calls for abandoning its colonial takeover of East Timor. A public investigation of mistreatment of Timorese will nevertheless help improve the atrocious image the army has earned in the annexed province.

It is essential that the investigation into last Tuesday's killings at Dili be carried through to the end because only by doing so will punishment be decreed for anyone found culpable in the deaths—especially senior army commanders. Maj Gen Sintong Panjaitan, the regional commander, has defended his troops' actions and criticised what he called "exaggeration of the death toll by foreigners." This is not an impressive statement, nor is it good enough to satisfy international demands for action against those who killed unnecessarily.

Any cover-up of the Dili cemetery killings would only further blacken the international reputation of the Indonesian military in its handling of East Timor since the takeover. It would almost certainly doom the chances of Mr Alatas' selection as UN Secretary-General next year. Indonesia must come clean on the tragedy. The result of a whitewash could well be the blackballing of Indonesia in many international forums.

Vietnam

Text of Do Muoi 22 Oct Ho Chi Minh City Speech

BK1411132191 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 Oct 91, pp 1, 3

[Speech by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at opening meeting of the second-round Ho Chi Minh City party organization congress on 22 October]

[Text] Dear Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the party Central Committee; dear comrade veteran revolutionaries; dear comrade delegates: On behalf of the party Central Committee, I cordially welcome our comrade delegates to the second-round congress of the Ho Chi Minh City party organization, fifth term, and would like to convey through them, my cordial regards to all members of the city party organization, party members, and compatriot city residents.

The second-round congress of delegates of the Ho Chi Minh City party organization, fifth term, is of great importance for the city's development in the years ahead. Party organizations and people in the southern provinces as well in the entire nation follow with avid interest the city party organization congress.

Being a major center in the southern part of the fatherland, the city has an important role and a heavy responsibility to fulfill in the process of joining hands with the entire country in implementing the seventh party congress resolution, the platform for national construction in the period of transition to socialism, and the strategy of economic stabilization and development until the year 2000.

Over the past five years, in implementing the renovation line traced by the party since its sixth national congress, the Ho Chi Minh City party organization and people have reached very important achievements: safeguarded political stability, taken the lead in the renovation undertaking, broadened the process of democratization, improved the socioeconomic situation a step further, firmly maintained production, and made progress in many respects. The volume of import-export products has increased. Progress has been made in many aspects of life. The living standards of people of all strata have been improved. The party's renovation line has been quickly applied to life, thus reflecting the city's sensitivity to the multisectorial commodity economic development policy.

New progress has been made by many establishments regarding workstyle. Contacts and screening have provided the party and state with many concrete experiences in the leadership and management of socioeconomic affairs as well as in the development of the multisectorial commodity economy in accordance with the market-oriented mechanism.

Our party highly appreciates all those positive factors because they are proof of efforts to renovate their thinking and workstyle as well as to uphold their bravery, revolutionary heroism, and creativity.

Over the past five years, the city has made progress in implementing democratization in all aspects of life. The activities of the people's council and Fatherland Front committee have yielded more concrete results. Importance has been attached to a pilot program initiated by the city to renovate the management mechanism at the city ward level. Studies have been made to improve the quality of administrative work. Initial results have been achieved in drawing a line between state management and control over production and business operations. Major campaigns initiated by the city against corruption, smuggling, lack of thrift, and other practices likely to cause inconveniences to the people have brought about limited results. However, these actions meet the people's aspirations and are in conformity with party and state policies.

Importance has been attached to ideological work and this is an indication of the sound political background of city party organizations, first of all, of party committee echelons and key cadres in charge of city management.

The city has made every effort to meet the people's needs for access to information, press, cultural, and artistic activities. It has also made much progress in implementing a social welfare program designed to create employment for the people and to provide them with vocational training, learning activities, and medical care and treatment. Efforts have also been made to assist needy compatriots and to show concern for people who have rendered meritorious services to the revolution and the fatherland. Thousands of houses have been built for this purpose. A widespread movement for charity work has been initiated among the masses.

Putting their confidence in the party's renovative line, compatriots in the city have made more positive efforts to promote production and business operations. The combination of economic policies and social policies is an indication of our concern for the motto of everything for the well-being of the people—as well as being proof of the superiority of socialism.

The city party organizations and administrative bodies have developed the aggregate strength of the people, firmly safeguarding political stability despite many complicated developments in the city, discovering and foiling many of the enemy's dark schemes and acts of sabotage, consolidating national defense and security, and cracking down on criminals.

On this occasion I would like to recall those days when you comrades and compatriots in the city enthusiastically discussed and contributed your views on the draft documents of the seventh party congress, and through this process you reasserted your choice of socialism, the path chosen by Uncle Ho. The party organization and people of the city displayed their patriotism, their democratic spirit, their new ability to think, and their scientific perceptions about the country's vital issues in view of the new epochal situation.

What is of more profound significance is that the above achievements were attained thanks to the sensibility of the party organization and the people of the city amid a very complex international situation which has had an overal negative impact on the domestic situation at a time when hostile forces are striving to encircle and isolate Vietnam and accelerate their scheme to eliminate socialism in our country.

With its party organization knowing how to rely on the people in widely promoting unity among the compatriots of various strata—workers, peasants, intellectuals, businessmen, youths, women, elderly people, war veterans, retired cadres, people of various religious affiliations and various ethnic groups such as those of Vietnamese and Chinese origins, teenagers, children, and overseas Vietnamese nationals—the city that bears the name of Uncle Ho has upheld the spirit of solidarity in the cause of advancing the country toward socialism with the motto of remaining united in the renovation and remaining united for the sake of the renovation.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, I warmly hail the patriotism, the persistent revolutionary tradition, the unity, and the achievements of the party organization and people of Ho Chi Minh City over the years.

Dear comrades, with a sense of responsibility as communists before the party and people, besides those achievements already gained, you, comrades, can also easily realize that there remain certain aspects of work which we have not yet done well, given the great latent potential of the city.

We need to first look at those subjective reasons as cited in the views contributed by various party cadres and members, by elderly comrades, by the representatives of the people of various strata, by the members of the Fatherland Front, and by various intellectuals, writers, and artists to the draft documents of this party organization congress. These views provided many heartfelt and accurate assessments pointing out that we have failed to clearly realize the two-tiered policy of the market mechanism, failed to anticipate the contingencies, and failed to adequately prepare conditions for embarking on the market economy to develop its positive and dynamic aspects and contain its negatively spontaneous aspects. The state management over such a large city as ours is still not up to date. As a city with its commodity-based economic growth rate higher than that of other localities in the country and with its intensive market transactions at home and abroad, the local party organization should pay greatest attention to providing political, educational, and ethical training to various party organizations and every party cadre and member.

With its determination enhanced by its freshly-gained knowledge and qualifications, the city has gained greater achievements in the struggle against negative phenomena—the ills of corruption, bribery, smuggling, and counterfeiting goods; the collapse of credit organizations; cases that involve great losses of the state and the people's property; negligence in economic dealings with foreign countries; and indications of wrongdoings in cultural, information, and press management, including cultural cooperation and service with foreign countries. The city has allowed the commercialization of cultural activities to occur and its acquisition of foreign culture has lacked selectiveness, thus eroding the cultural identity of the nation and its ethics and traditions. Those views scrupulously contributed by you, comrades, and by the compatriots on state management have served as a heartfelt reminder to our party cadres and members to help firmly safeguard national defense and security and maintain discipline and laws; severely punish law offenders, corrupt officials, and those who bully the people; fight against the bad practice of providing umbrella-like protection for cronies; and keep the party mechanism clean and steadfast.

All these views speak for the people's ardent desire for a stable and prosperous life in which all citizen's rights are guaranteed and democratization is carried out widely and scrupulously.

From the forum of the city party organization congress, I would like to remind the city of its role as an industrial metropolis with a large number of working-class people. It should be admitted that the party's infrastructure among the working class is not strong enough, that the working class conceptions of the party have not yet been adquately enhanced, and that efforts to build the working class and organize party work among workers are still weak. The role of the working class can never fade away in the face of the commodity-based production system and the market-oriented economic mechanism. Instead, the new conditions arising from socialist construction require that we consolidate and uphold the role and position of the working class.

It is our party which, basing itself on the standpoint of the working class and representing the interests of the laboring people, has adopted a multisectoral commodity-based economic policy as it is applying the market-oriented economic mechanism. It is precisely due to this that the party organization has promoted the alliance among workers, peasants, and intellectuals and has developed the great latent potential of the intellectuals in carrying out various national policies on education and training, and science and technology. And it is precisely due to its working-class standpoint that the party organization should renovate itself and intensify its leadership over various mass organizations if these social organizations are to be diversified to reflect the special features of a large metropolis.

Here I would like to remind you of cadre training. The contingent of the city's dynamic and flexible cadres has been constantly replenished with youths from the actual revolutionary movement. Many of them have matured very quickly. In cadre-related work, the city has failed to bring itself up to the new situation as there remain many pressing problems to be solved, ranging from planning to the arrangement of cadres, including those inside and outside the party and those coming from different sources. The city should strive to make every cadre a loyal and persistent fighter and a creative talent ready to devote himself to the people's cause.

Far from causing the enthusiasm of cadres to wear down, the city's commodity-based economic development policy has made cadres more steady, versatile, creative, and capable of rallying greater public support. In carrying out cadre-related work, we need a broad and scientific vision. In personnel recruitment we should select loyal, competent, ethical, and reality-hardened people to meet requirements arising from our revolutionary tasks. All indications of opportunism, localism, parochialism, and nepotism should face criticism.

One of the weaknesses of the city party organization's work performance is that it has failed to review its experiences in various aspects of work. Its activities are large in substance but poor in quality.

If systematically exploited, that experience drawn from reality by Ho Chi Minh City will help the leadership skills of the party organization and will, at the same time, contribute to the fatherland's vault of collective experiences.

Reviewing experiences on activities will help us discover problems to be solved and find out what is strong and what is weak, what is right and what is wrong to struggle to overcome these things through criticism and self-criticism. By so doing, we will be able to improve the knowledge of party cadres and members, discover good cadres, remove those degraded and deviant elements, consolidate our ranks, and improve cadres' knowledge and revolutionary ethics.

Responsibility for the city's weaknesses and shortcomings rests partially with the central government. The macroeconomic management of the city, especially the management over banking, financial, and social welfare activities, as well as other activities of the central-level sectors, should be improved in accordance with a renovative spirit to create favorable conditions for local industry development under an integrated national economy. Simultaneously, it is necessary to restore public order, firmly safeguard the law, and maintain public discipline.

Central level sectors in the city and the city itself should pay attention to ironing out difficulties and overcoming obstacles. It is our major goal at present to strive to promptly tide the country over the current socioeconomic crisis for the sake of the future of the Vietnamese nation. All activities of various echelons and sectors in the country should be guided along this direction.

Dear comrades, the primary duty of the Ho Chi Minh City's party organization congress is to thoroughly understand the seventh party congress resolution in order to define the political task of the party organization; build a clean, firm, and strong party attached to the people; and bring into play the central role of the city in the new situation.

Ho Chi Minh City is a major economic, cultural, technological and international exchange center, and a major communications terminal. The city's economy is closely linked to a rich agro-forest-fishery products region with a developing industry. The area has great labor and land resource which assures the city of a rear base abounding in grain, food, agricultural products, and raw materials. The development of the oil and gas industry will open great prospects for the city's industrial and service sectors. The city, of course, has its own difficulties and complexities in the political, economic, cultural, national defense, and security domains. Nevertheless, generally, no other city in our country could have assembled such great advantages and potential.

The party's renovation line has given us additional knowledge. Yet it has required us to bring into play the central role of the city in developing the multisectorial commodity economy that evolves along a market-oriented mechanism under state management control and the socialist direction.

To fulfill this requirement, the city should decide on a rational economic structure that will turn out abundant and diverse products of good quality productively and efficiently.

The city should harness its strengths and attract regional sources of raw materials to develop the agro-forest-fishery products industry and the consumer goods industry. This is to meet domestic demand, substitute a considerable portion of imports and heighten production standards for export.

At the same time, it should pay due attention to the development of manufacturing industries, especially engineering and electronics. It should surge forward in turning out production means and be capable of equipping and reequipping itself and the entire region, especially in supporting regional agriculture, forestry, and fishery. It should pay attention to the development of processing industries such as its agro-forestry-fishery industry and the consumer goods industry. The city should upgrade and build more infrastructure.

Agriculture in our country, especially in the south, is shifting rapidly to the agriculture of commodities along the line of comprehensive development, taking productivity, quality and efficiency as a gauge. As a result, it requires that we advance toward systematizing water conservancy, mechanizing and electrifying agriculture, and turning agriculture into a bio-chemical science. To this end, we should, on the one hand, clearly define the guidelines for shifting the city's economic structure as stated above. On the other, we should pay attention to reequipping and renovating industry and promptly overcome the prolonged backward state of industry to meet the requirments of developing the agriculture of commodities at present and, especially in the coming years, of the entire region including the city's suburbs. At the same time, along with making the most use of equipment currently on hand and traditional industries, we should boldly apply scientific innovations and new technologies to upgrade industry and meet the city industry's requirements for development.

Developing the structures of production, trades, sectors, and industries along the above-mentioned guidelines is mainly to create the city's attractiveness to other localities in the entire region, and to lay a firm foundation for the city to play its role of an economic center in the region and the entire country.

Evidently, due to its important and favorable position, the city should continually develop its services ranging from the supply of raw and other materials for production to commercial services, product consumption, financial and banking services, information, investment, export-import, and public relations, and tourism. This is to support its production and the entire region.

In the market mechanism, what should be recognized is the city's relationship with other cities in the region. It must be equal, mutually beneficial, reliable, and cooperative to promote mutual growth and development. This relationship is significant in strengthening the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance, and it will help the Mekong Delta and the entire former B-2 zone to progress. This is the duty and responsibility of the city, the region, and the entire country.

Every comrade of the city party organization, in the framework of his duty, must strive to creatively find ways and means to satisfactorily help the city develop its role as a center for building a prosperous and strong nation for our people. I hope that the Mekong River Delta, the eastern region of Nam Bo, and the central highlands will vigorously develop effective cooperation relations with Ho Chi Minh City and other regions of the country.

Our main objective is to vigorously develop the multisectorial economy in accordance with the law. This is one of the main features of our economic policy and structure. It is the feature of great significance to Ho Chi Minh City where there is great potential in manpower, capital, and the production of goods in diversified forms.

The assets among the city's people of several strata are great. If they could be exploited properly and invested wisely the socioeconomic development rates of the city could increase several times. We encourage everyone to invest in developing production and business and to become rich legitimately, ensuring true equality before the law in all economic sectors. However, the commodity economy must develop healthily. It is necessary to eliminate the prevalence of individuals under state protection engaging in illicit business, and dodging and cheating on taxes. This situation is at variance with the policy on the multisectorial economy. It has upset discipline and order, negatively affected social life, and restricted the development of the economy.

The city party organization should attentively lead in reorganizing the state-run economy to consolidate and increase its effectiveness. State economic installations include both the local and centrally-owned ones in the city. These must all be reorganized and be run profitably according to law and discipline. Prolonged losses must end. The increase in productivity and efficiency must be higher than increases in income. Only in this way can the state- run economy progress and maintain its leading role. As a result, we must seriously review the state-run economy and take measures to fundamentally improve it.

We attach much importance to developing the state capitalist economy as well as cooperation economy in diversified forms on the principle of spontaneity, not the old form of cooperation. I would like to say that forms of cooperation in agriculture with new contents have emerged; therefore, you comrades should study and draw on experience to expand them.

We encourage individual capitalists to develop production and business for the interest of national welfare and the people's livelihood. We also encourage organizations, corporations, foreigners, and overseas Vietnamese to invest in production and business in Vietnam in accordance with the law already promulgated on foreign investment in Vietnam.

It can be said that our economy at present is functioning in accordance with the "open" mechanism. In other words, we may say that it opens opportunities for all economic components and individuals who have the capability to do business to become rich to gradually reduce the number of poor households and eventually eliminate them all. It also opens the door to promote relations and economic cooperation with countries in the world on the principle of equality, mutual interest, and respect for each other's independence and sovereignty.

The open mechanism must complement state management. Since our country is still very poor, together with developing production and business, we should practice thrift and treat it as a national policy. We must be thrifty in both production and consumption. We must economize on raw and other materials, and reduce the cost of production and distribution to lower total production cost. We must forbid the misappropriation of public assets and the use of state funds to buy wasteful, luxurious gifts.

All party committee echelons, administrative organs, and the people must keep an eye on and take stern measures against these phenomena. All individuals, families, and establishments should practice thrift and invest in production and business operations to benefit national construction. It is necessary to educate and encourage everyone to use homemade products. Also, our country often experiences losses caused by natural diasters. Therefore, efforts should be made to raise funds to prevent natural disaters, thus creating conditions for assisting those localities that experience difficulties or lag behind in development due to unfavorable circumstances.

On this occasion, I would like to convey the party Central Committee's kind regards to countrymen who experienced recent flash floods in the Mekong River Delta. I also welcome assistance made by the city and other provinces to these people. I hope that countrymen throughout the country will enhance the spirit of mutual affection to continue to assist people in areas with natural calamity to quickly overcome difficulties and restore their daily life. While engaging in economic development, we should pay attention to implementing social welfare work, enhancing the people's good health and intelligence, resolving the unemployment problem, caring for those who have given the revolution meritorious service, opposing social vices, and protecting the environment.

Dear comrades, the Ho Chi Minh City party organization underwent many ordeals during the years of revolutionary struggle and war of resistance. Today, the city plays an important role in the economic struggle. As a result, the party organization must strive to strengthen itself to implement the renovation undertaking, shift to the commodity-based economy, build socialist democracy and the nation in the transition period toward socialism, and persistently oppose the hostile forces' dark schemes aimed at undermining our nation. It is noteworthy that these ordeals have matured the contingent of party members in the city and they are loyal to the party, people, and Uncle Ho's ideal. The achievements scored by the city during the past years were in close association with great contributions made by the city party organization under the leadership of the party Central Committee.

However, the role of the party organization changes and develops in accordance with new requirements of the revolution and aspirations of the people. Only by consistently enhancing the capability, intelligence, and quality of the entire party organization and each individual party member will we be able to help the party organization to surge forward to meet great requirements of the revolution in the new stage.

Efforts to strengthen the party and forge its members, under any circumstances, must be made on the basis of building a pure, strong party.

I have learned that during its past term implementing the party Central Committee's directive, the city party organization has adopted measures to consolidate party installations and has scored initial results. That's great! Keep up the good work, comrades!

Moreover, it must be noted that a number of comrades have failed to overcome challenges, becoming degraded and deviant and causing the people's confidence in the party to weaken. Many party installations remain weak and even fail to firmly grasp the tasks and leadership orientations set forth by the party to cope with the new situation. At present, it is urgently important that each party member's revolutionary fighting spirit be increased and that each party installation's militancy be consolidated and enhanced.

Our party's organizational system asserts that basic party organizations are the organs that directly engage in struggles, stay close to the people, and motivate them to implement the party lines and policies. Results in turning the party's correct lines and policies into reality depend on the capability of basic party organizations and the party members' vanguard and exemplary role as well as their ability to motivate the people. Each party organization must firmly grasp the party's stand and concept as well as the state's lines and policies, clearly understand the state law, develop the democratic spirit, and correctly assert and satisfactorily lead the implementation of the political task of party organiazation. The most important thing is to maintain the close relationship between basic party organizations and party members and the people. The party must fully understand the people's aspirations, help improve the conditions of their material and spiritual life, and make them clearly understand all party policies and enthusiastically respond to the mass movement to perform realistic revolutionary deeds. The attachment between the party and people constitutes the base of the revolutionary undertaking. Therefore, all party members must make efforts to consolidate that base. The mass mobilization task must be renovated and strengthened in accordance with basic concepts condensed in resolution of the eighth plenum of the sixth party Central Committee. Each party member must concretely carry out the motto that the party is for the people, the people are for the party, thus upholding the party's sacred objective and principle.

The party serves no interests other than the people's interests. Let party members follow the example set by Uncle Ho by showing genuine respect for the people, listening to their opinions, and guarding themselves against the evils of bureaucratism, officialism, lack of democracy toward the masses, and other practices likely to cause inconveniences to the people. Party members are not allowed to have any special privileges. Each party member must set a good example and enthusiastically respond to the movement against corruption, bribe-taking, officialism, extravagance, spendthrift behavior, negativism, and violations of law because these are all contrary to the party's ideals and the people's moral ethics.

Each party member must strive to positively carry out the social welfare work, maintain close relations with the people, and organize mass and social activities based on the people's practical interests.

We must strive to broaden democracy, create favorable conditions for the people to participate in the party building task and contribute ideas to party activities, especially in building basic party organizations. We must also create conditions for the people to participate in state management through people-elected agencies and mass organizations. When the party and the people can integrate into a firm bloc at the grass-roots level, it will become a powerful strength, invincible to all schemes and forces.

The city party organization must take concrete measures to strengthen ideological and organizational work aimed at making all party members and people understand that it is of the utmost importance now to devote efforts to making the people rich and the country powerful as well as to firmly defending the beloved fatherland. It is necessary to see to it that ideological work helps uphold everyone's love for the country and socialism, and helps generate confidence in our nation's socialist path as well as in Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh thought, and the renovation undertaking. At present, good implementation of ideological work means the ability to work out concrete measures to make the people rich and the country powerful. It is necessary to fully understand the motto of everything for the people; accelerate the renovation undertaking; firmly maintain political stability to benefit development; and resolutely oppose bureaucratism, conservatism, and sluggishness. At the same time, firm measures must be taken against all indications of opportunism and alienation from the goals of national independence and socialism, as well as all indications of deviation and extremism. Ideological work must be effective enough to cope with the increasingly sophisticated and pernicious arguments being used by hostile forces to distort the truth, sow disunity, and create instigation. So, the party organization must consolidate its force in charge of ideological tasks and most satisfactorily organize its ideological battlefront. Yet, the ideological task is not merely the work of party committees and propaganda sectors. It is the routine work of all party members in charge of various tasks of the party, the front, the state and mass organizations in street blocks and work areas. We must know how to use the strength of all non-party cadres and large numbers of people. The struggle against the forces that obstruct our people's advance to socialism also involves the economic domain. As a result, we should prevent and overcome the trend for economic results alone which has appeared quite frequently among cadres, especially those who directly manage production and business. Now we understand all the better Uncle Ho's teaching: "There must be socialist men to build socialism." Party members and cadres must strive to become socialist men. The party's organizational and cadre tasks demand outstanding efforts on our part. The party organization must be clean, firm, and strong. It must have the ability and wisdom commensurate with the revolutionary task. The principle of democratic centralism is our organization's source of strength. The shifting of the economy to the market-oriented mechanism poses a series of new problems for organizational work. Party organizations and, in a broad sense, state apparatuses and mass societies, must renovate their thinking and workstyle and must be strong enough to develop the positive factors of the market-oriented mechanism and reduce and eliminate its negative factors. Party organizations must be strong and capable of correctly resolving a series of new problems arising from the eventful and complicated world developments. Regarding cadre-related work, measures must be taken to secure continuity and successiveness. Steps must be taken to combine the training, improvement, and promotion of young cadres with the assignment of cadres who have grown up from the previous stages. It is important to attach importance to the experiences of veteran comrades. Attention must also be paid to the training and improvement of female cadres.

I would like to say something about renovating party leadership related to the entire process of renovating the political system. The party must very attentively lead the renovation of the political system in our country which is in fact the achievement of socialist democracy. It must continue to bring into play the people's right to mastery which is institutionalized into law and implemented within the legal framework. Our party is part and parcel and a leading nucleus of the political system. First of all, the party must renovate and reorganize itself to raise the standard of its intellectual ability and leadership, especially political leadership, over the economic, social, cultural, educational, scientific, artistic, national defense, and security fields. The entire party with all its organizations and members is faced with such demands. Only by doing so, can our party strengthen its close relationship with the people and lead the people in exercising their mastery in an adequate and steady manner.

Under the system of party organizations exerting leadership over administrative bodies, party organizations' leadership efficiency is reflected first of all through the work efficiency of people's councils, people's committees, fatherland front committees, and mass societies.

Regarding the handling of administrative affairs, extremely deep intervention or lack of close leadership by party committee echelons will bring bad results. One of the very important tasks for local party organizations is to recommend that outstanding cadres take charge of state agencies and mass organizations.

The party must exert close leadership over the implementation of national defense and security work and must educate all party members and people about the need to heighten vigilance. This is to firmly maintain the fatherland's independence and sovereignty; guarantee political stability and public order; firmly maintain discipline and uphold the law; secure peace, stability, and the right of mastery of the people; and oppose all forces blocking our people's national construction cause and advance toward socialism.

Dear comrades, renovation is being undertaken in our country as the international situation develops in a very complex manner. Besides current and future opportunities we should take the most advantage of, we must also strenuously overcome difficulties and challenges.

Socialism is currently facing an overall and profound crisis. The socialist system in the USSR no longer exists. The activities of the Soviet Communist Party have been cancelled. This is the greatest loss to the Soviet people and Communist Party, to international worker's and communist movements, and world revolutionary and progressive forces. Reactionary forces are intensifying their attacks to eliminate socialism in the remaining countries. Many are therefore worried whether our country can stand firm and continue on its socialist path.

In answering that question, we confirm that our country will certainly stand firm and continue to develop for the following reasons:

First of all, over the last half a century our people have answered the appeals of the party and Uncle Ho to fight long wars full of sacrifice and hardship and to successfully implement the party's lines of "Long Struggles Certainly Lead to Victories" and "Independence and Unity Will Certainly Be Successful."

Now, whatever form the new struggle takes, our people—who control their own destiny—will protect our revolution's results with determination. They will not allow any force to destroy those results, and will implement Uncle Ho's teaching "There Is Nothing More Precious Than Independence and Freedom." We will sacrifice everything and will not accept the loss of our nation or be slaves.

After many years of fighting for freedom and independence, our people's steel-like will and earnest aspiration are to maintain stability to build the country and to bring happiness to ourselves and our descendants.

Looking back at thousands of years of history in building and maintaining our homeland makes us believe more in the will, character, and tradition of our Vietnamese people. We have always stood firmly on our feet and have progressed with our hands and minds. We have built up our country from ancient times mainly through our own efforts, and will continue to do so from now on.

History shows that our people's fate and our nation's existence and development depend on our decisions. We will not let them be decided by external forces.

Second, real challenges are before us. We basically entered the year 1991 without any possible sources of aid. But our people have striven to overcome difficulties and challenges. We have not only stabilized production and livelihood, but have also developed and improved in some respects. Recent important achievements have proven that.

Of paramount importance, we have stabilized and fulfilled the need for food in the country despite past food scarcity and the natural disasters affecting many localities this year. Moreover, we were able to export food.

We have progressed in other areas too. We have begun to gain experience in doing business under new circumstances, and we are striving to create conditions to enter 1992 more confidently.

With this year's achievements and the preparation for next year, we believe our economy and society will advance many new steps in implementing the Seventh National Party Congress resolutions.

Third, the renovation we have carried out since the sixth national party congress is basically correct in direction, steps, and measures. The renovation was collectively accepted by the party and people and has been enthusiastically implemented. The multisectional commodity economy is developing, people's lives have improved or stabilized, political stability has been maintained, and democracy has developed gradually.

We are proceeding with political reform with the correct steps and measures. This is being done by preparing the constitution to stipulate the party's leadership role, renewing state management, and gradually building the juridical state. Democracy has also developed more broadly each passing day. Discipline is being maintained, and this meets the requirements of the new situation. With this, the superstructure has become gradually more suited to the infrastructure, and the renovation is brought to a higher level and becomes more profound and complete in content. That is also the basis for stabilizing the country. Stability is maintained for renovation, and renovation is undertaken for more stability.

It is possible to say that the renovation which we began on time—if we do not want to say that it started fairly early—in an appropriate direction, with steps and measures as well as the precious experience gained during its implementation, is the most important condition guaranteeing that our nation stands firmly against any challenge. It also gives us the great advantage to continue developing.

Fourth, the line of national independence and socialism, which has been implemented resolutely by our people so far, is similar to the natural law of evolution. National independence and socialism are the inevitabilities of history that all countries and nations will achieve sooner or later. All great world revolutions have experienced failures before they were successful in the end. The new situation is similar to the law of nature, despite the fact that it faced obstacles. In the end, the new will replace the old.

Our revolution over the past half a century has experienced its ups and downs and has faced ferocious challenges. At times it had to step back and face failure, but finally it gained glamorous victories. The country was liberated, independent, free, and united. It moved into the transitional period to socialism. In building socialism, we committed mistakes of dogmatism, voluntarism, and applied the wrong socialist models. But since the sixth national party congress and after finding out about our earlier shortcomings, we tried to correct them and began the renovation. At the seventh national party congress, we continued to confirm and develop the renovation, strengthen the people's trust, and gathered the people's force to continue to advance the revolution. Enthusiam and pride are suitable responses to the initial successes of the past few years.

Considering the above reasons, we confirm that our party and people will certainly to overcome challenges in the new situation, stand firmly, and continue to advance the nation on the socialist path chosen by the party, Uncle Ho, and our people.

Of course, this is not the old model of socialism. We have to continually study, research, and draw from experience so that we can gradually build up new socialist concepts. On that basis, we will define a correct socialism model, and one that works for the true happiness of our people.

The above reasons have consolidated our confidence. Yet, we have to act to bring them to bear. We must organize and consolidate the party from the centre down to the grass roots, making it truly clean, firm and strong; intensify the solidarity bloc of all party members, people and troops, and international solidarity as well; and continue to accelerate comprehensive renovation in the right direction in suitable steps. Only through action can we stand firm and continue to advance. As such, the answer to the question does not rest with the central echelon only. Rather, it is the work of all party members and organizations including the Ho Chi Minh City party organization and the city's party members.

National construction and defense is an undertaking of all people. The revolution is staged by the entire party, and each party organization and member. Evidently, the party central committee, political bureau and secretariat have to assume great responsibilities. Nevertheless, the revolution is always an undertaking of all people and party members. As a result, the question is primarily for each of you to answer.

It is our decision to stand firm, advance, and stabilize our country. It is the decision of all party members, people and troops, and all party committees who have to display extraordinary efforts to contribute to the common cause.

In this congress, I propose that you will debate the burning issues very closely, analyze and consider the facts scrupulously. That is the practical way come up with an answer during the congress and to initiate action after the congress.

Experience has shown that instability usually stem from within the party. Division among party members will divert the people. Party weakness will erode the people's confidence. Then, it will be an opportunity for hostile forces to prevail upon it and carry out their peaceful evolution and instigate internal rebellion and subversion.

As a result, more than ever before, the party-building issues that I mentioned above are currently the pressing tasks of our party. We have to determine our lines correctly, define our guidelines and tasks clearly, and take accurate steps. We have to intensify solidarity and unity within the party on the strength of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought, and most sastisfactorily implement the principles of democratic centralization in party life activities. We have to resolutely oppose opportunism, factionalism, division, corruption, arrogance, and authoritarianism, which distance the people. We must resolutely build a clean, firm and strong party, and dismiss all degenerate and deviant elements. The people are very fair. If we commit mistakes out of good intentions, they will understand and readily share their views with the party to correct the mistakes. However, if we purposely take advantage of the imperfection of the mechanism to seek personal profits, the people will be displeased and not overlook it.

In the struggle to purify and strengthen the party, you, comrades, always have the party Central Committee, Political Bureau, and Secretariat at your side. Although the state will perfect the new mechanism gradually, the main task still rests with you. Only by making healthy changes within the party, can we consolidate the people's confidence. We must educate ouselves before educating others.

To positively participate in building the party, each of our party members should reflect on what he must do and how he must live and forge his qualities to make the party clean, firm, strong, and capable of leading the people through thick and thin, and to stabilize and develop the country. Real work and action is the pivot in party building at present, especially in building clean, firm, and strong party organizations.

Dear comrades, in thoroughly understanding the lines in the seventh party congress resolution to create a favorable international environment for national construction, we have implemented a principled yet flexible foreign policy in the spirit of independence and sovereignty to diversify international relations by combining national strength with epochal strength, domestic force with international force, and traditional factors with modern factors.

We are pleased to see that the recent official and friendly visit to Vietnam by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, has created a step further in the development of the special Vietnam-Laos relations of friendship and solidarity and has intensified cooperation in all fields according to new procedures.

Our people have wholeheartedly helped the Cambodian people and have made important contributions to the process leading to a peaceful solution to the Cambodian issue. We have always supported the Cambodian people's party; expressed our friendship with the Cambodian people; and asserted our stand to develop good relations with a peaceful, independent neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia having good relations with neighboring countries.

The agreement on an overall political solution to the Cambodia issue will be signed soon. We expect that this agreement will be based on respect for the sovereignty of Cambodia and its neighboring countries, and for the UN Charter.

The Vietnamese people have always treasured friendship with the Soviet Union and are forever grateful to the Soviet people for their wholehearted help in the Vietnamese revolution. We continue to maintain relations with the Soviet Union at the state level on the principles of mutual benefits, respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Along with our relations with the union, we will expand our relations, especially economic relations, with all the republics.

The Vietnamese people are grateful to the Chinese people who assisted Vietnam in the struggle against imperialists and colonialists to regain national independence. We will develop our relations of friendship and good neighborliness on the principles of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, nonaggression against each other, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefits, and coexistence. The normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations responds to the fundamental aspirations of the two peoples and, at the same time, contributes to peace, stability and coopereation in the region and the world over.

Cuba is in a particularly difficult situation. We welcome the stalwart combat spirit of the Cuban people and communists in their struggle against all hostile forces that are threatening Cuba and we will strengthen our solidarity with Cuba and intensify our mutual support.

Vietnam's relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are developing satisfactorily.

We will continue to maintain our relations with East European countries at the state level and will strive to restore economic and trade relations with them.

Vietnam's friendship with India has been consolidated and the economic cooperation between the two countries continues to develop.

We are keen to expand our relations with Southeast Asian countries and ASEAN countries, considering it an important regional policy.

We continue to advocate the policy of normalizing relations with the United States. Yet, it is regrettable that so far the United States has not shown any goodwill and continues to implement its embargo against Vietnam.

We continue to develop our relations with West and North European countries and Australia, and improve our relations with Japan.

We will maintain and expand relations with all the communist and workers parties and all the revolutionary and national independence movements, and will continue our relations with some social and democratic socialist parties, thus making positive contributions to the struggle for peace, independence, and social progress in the world. We persist in implementing the lines set forth by the seventh party congress: "With our wide-open foreign policy, we declare: Vietnam wants to befriend all countries in the world and struggle for peace, independence, and development."

Dear comrades, allow me to repeat once more that the fifth congress of the Ho Chi Minh City party organization is of great importance to the city's development. Your duties are therefore very weighty. I expect that you will uphold your sense of responsibility to the party and people, thoroughly understand the seventh party congress resolution with its guidelines for wisdom-renovation-democracy-discipline and solidarity, adopt a correct resolution of your own, and elect a new executive committee for the party organization in response to the expectations of the entire party organization and people of the city.

The party Central Committee, all party members, and the people nationwide earnestly expect the party organization and people of the city honorably bearing our beloved Uncle Ho's name to proceed steadily on the chosen path, bring into play the role of an urban center, and together with the entire country make the people rich and the country strong.

May the congress be a success!

I wish Comrade Advisor Nguyen Van Linh good health!

I wish all veteran revolutionaries and you, delegates, good health!

Thank you comrades.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 19 Nov

BK1911080191 Hanoi VNA in English 0651 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 19—Frontpaged in Hanoi press today is an illustrated report on a reception here on Nov. 15 by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, of a delegation of the Harvard International Development Institute led by director Dr. Dwight Perkins.

Another frontpage report says that Premier Vo Van Kiet received here yesterday afternoon a visiting Australian trade delegation led by Minister for Trade and Overseas Development Neal Blewett during which the Vietnamese leader expressed his hope that the visit would strengthen the economic and trade ties between Vietnam and Australia in the interests of both peoples.

Premier Vo Van Kiet also received here the same day a visiting delegation of Malaysia's senate led by Speaker Datuk Chan Choong Tak. During the reception Premier Kiet praised Malaysia's achievements in national construction which, he said, bear great economic as well as political significance not only for Malaysia but also for the whole region, the papers report.

NHAN DAN carries a statute on export processing zone issued by the Council of Ministers recently.

Other reports are about an exhibition held in Ho Chi Minh City jointly by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the CP Exhibition Corporation of Hong Kong with the participation of 29 foreign companies, a get-together arranged by the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front on the 61st founding anniversary of the United National Front, and Vietnam's participation at a conference on archives of documents on architecture and maps held in Singapore.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is reported to have held a press conference in Phnom Penh on Nov 17 during which he said that the People's Party of Cambodia has come in alliance with the faction now headed by Prince Norodom Ranariddh. The objective of the alliance is to "maintain the nation's supreme interests," he stressed.

The English-language newspaper VIETNAM NEWS run an article on new trends in India-Vietnam commercial relations by the consul general of India in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr. H.V. Shringla.

VNA Reviews Hanoi Newspapers for 20 Nov

BK2111101191 Hanoi VNA in English 0611 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 20—Newspapers in Hanoi today frontpage illustrated reports on the opening session in Haiphong Port City on Nov. 18 of the 10th congress (second round) of the local party organization, which was attended by 427 delegates representing more than 70,000 party members in the city.

The papers publish in full party General Secretary Do Muoi's speech at the session, in which he stressed the need for Haiphong to build an economic strucure with import and export as its key economic activities.

Also frontpaged is illustrated reports on the closing session yesterday of the 11th congress of the Hanoi party organisation with a 51-member executive committee elected.

State Council President Vo Chi Cong is reported to have received here yesterday the visiting Malaysian senatorial delegation led by speadker Dato Chan Choong Tak, and Premier Vo Van Kiet received here on Nov. 18 British Secretary of State for Energy John Wakeham.

The Kinhill Engineers Company of Australia and the Investment Consultation and Communications, Transport and Post Cooperation Corporation of Vietnam (INTECO) signed in Hanoi yesterday a cooperation agreement, and the French bank Indosuez has presented Vietnamese flood victims in Mekong River Delta with USD 8,000 the papers say.

On Vietnam's teachers day today, all newspapers carry reports on activities throughout the country to mark the event. NHAN DAN runs an editorial on the teacher's important role in educational development.

The English-language newspaper VIETNAM NEWS TODAY says that construction of the third hyro-electric power plant in southern Vietnam begins today at a site 160 kilimetres north of Ho Chi Minh City; the Mekong River Delta Province of An Giang harvested more than 1.5 million tons of rice this year, the record output so far; and that so far this year 700 people in the central province of Nghe An have been reported killed of malaria in comparison with 91 last year.

International news column includes a report on a tour of an orphanage in Kandal Province on Nov. 17 by Prince

Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council, and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia. The prince is reported to have welcomed efforts of the People's Party of Cambodia and the State of Cambodia Government in imporving the people's living conditions.